

Sports Albany keeps lead in BSAL baseball standings [C1]
Arts & Leisure Fire arts take forefront in weekend festival [C12]



DEAN COPPOLA/STAFF



Carnival returns to Kensington Hilltop school

KINDERGARTNER KYLEE FRASSETTO, above center, is among the students and visitors trying to catch catapulted water balloons during the 59th annual carnival at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School last Saturday. Saturday's carnival marked its return to Kensington. Last year's event was held on the grounds of Portola Middle School of El Cerrito during renovations to the Hilltop campus. At left, Sofia Vanderlaan, a first-grader, reacts while competing in the "water race." Also featured were games, a raffle, food and a rummage sale.

Zoning change may open door to cannabis club

■ The proposal would allow a medical marijuana dispensary to open within 3 blocks along San Pablo between Knott and Rose

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The El Cerrito Planning Commission will consider recommending changes next month to the city's zoning ordinance that would allow a medical marijuana dispensary within a three-block area on the city's north side.

At its Monday night meeting, the City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance requiring a use permit for such facilities. The council would

have to approve a second reading of the ordinance as well as the recommended zoning changes before a dispensary can operate.

Under the proposed zoning changes that will go to the Planning Commission, dispensaries could open within three blocks along San Pablo Avenue between Knott Avenue and Rose Street.

The council moved forward with the dispensary regulations as a compromise between state and federal laws, which are at odds over the legality of medical marijuana.

"The state of the law is still not certain," City Attorney Janet Coleson said.

See MARIJUANA, Page A11

Coalition submits names for initiative

■ Developer makes changes to waterfront project while environmentalists finish gathering signatures for ballot measure

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The continuing battle over Albany's waterfront took some new turns this week as an environmental coalition submitted signatures for a ballot initiative that would restrict development while the developer announced revisions to the proposed retail-housing project.

Alameda County has about a month to certify the results of the signature-gathering effort in Albany intended to place a waterfront planning measure on the November ballot. At noon Tuesday, representatives of a coalition of environmental groups submitted 2,400 signatures in support of the proposed

initiative to the Albany city clerk.

The groups, which include Citizens for the Albany Shoreline and Citizens for East Shore Parks, needed about 950 signatures, or 10 percent of registered voters, to qualify for the ballot, said Robert Cheasty, the president of the East Shore parks group.

The initiative conflicts with Southern California-based developer Rick Caruso's plans for the parking lots at Golden Gate Fields, located near the city's shoreline.

The waterfront specific plan initiative is intended to prevent large-scale development from within 600 feet of the bay. It would also place a moratorium on development approvals or zoning changes along the waterfront for up to two years, while a committee hashes out a plan for the area.

See SIGNATURES, Page A11

Albany teacher continues outreach in Afghanistan

Marin instructor and science teacher to Afghan teachers and deliver supplies to 10 schools

By Robert Menzimer
CORRESPONDENT
Whether you spent your summer vacation in 2004, chances you weren't in Afghanistan. The science teacher at Marin School in Albany was. And she's back every year since.

thought, 'How can I help them reorganize?'

She was in for a lot more than shuffling desks. She returned to Afghanistan during spring break in 2005, with Barry and two others — Barry's husband, David; and Marianne O'Grady, who teaches at UCSF and San Francisco State. This time they were under the auspices of the San Francisco-based non-profit Afghan Friends Network with the support of its president, Humaira Ghilzai.

Their little band had grown, and so had its mission. In seven days in Ghazni Province, they taught elementary and high school science to 120 teachers, and delivered science supplies to 10 schools so the teachers who had become students could replicate the experiments they had learned.

Then the calendar flipped to 2006. In March at Marin School, De Laere organized Change for Change, to collect funds for her Afghan teachers and students.

"I saw the kids selling their old toys on Solano Avenue," she recalls. "They performed in bands, sold original art, went on penny



ELSIE DE LAERE

MARIN ELEMENTARY teacher Elsie De Laere is shown with teachers in 2005 in Ghazni City, Afghanistan. She is helping present a lesson on tops, exploring the question of what makes some tops spin faster and better than others, and providing the teachers with such basic materials as scissors, cardboard and wooden sticks so they could test their theories.

hunts with their parents, did jobs at home, shared their allowance."

Remarkably, in two weeks, they collected \$1,400. And when De Laere took the treasure back to Afghanistan last month, it elec-

trified the local landscape like lightning in the night sky. "Our strength is that we are a small group," she says, "that we don't get help from our government. We raise our own money and

spend it there. They keep asking, 'Who gave this money?' I answer, 'The students at my school.' It blows them away."

See TEACHERS, Page A11

Old roses are riveting to woman in El Cerrito

By Chris Treadway
STAFF WRITER

Nobody promised Miriam Wilkins a rose garden 50 years ago, and she wasn't particularly looking for one.

"I had four children under age 5. I didn't have time for anything," she said. "I did have a garden and I liked to pull weeds."

Wilkins nonetheless responded to an ad in Good Housekeeping that advised sending 50 cents to get a catalog from Roses of Yesterday and Today, a Watsonville nursery. That was her introduction to what are known as heritage, antique or old roses.

"I saw how different they were, how they had distinctive foliage," she said.

Wilkins developed a love for old roses, varieties pre-dating the 20th century that had fallen out of favor as modern hybrids gained popularity. Since that first catalog she has planted hundreds of varieties of roses in her El Cerrito garden.

See ROSES, Page A11

INSIDE

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Martin Snapp

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NEWS BRIEFS

El Cerrito

Financial advisory board to review budget

The El Cerrito financial advisory board will review the city's 2006-2007 budget at a meeting Wednesday, and the City Council may adopt the document as early as June 5.

The proposed \$41 million budget for the city and redevelopment agency includes money for four new police officers on top of the two the school district began funding this year. It's the largest increase in the department in two or three decades.

But the department may not see the new officers for another year or two because of the time it takes to bring in new hires, Police Chief Scott Kirkland said.

Home sales continue to drive up property taxes for the city and redevelopment agency, from \$8.8 million last year to \$10.4 million forecast in the next fiscal year.

The city's general fund, which pays for the bulk of operations, forecasts revenues of \$23.9 million next year, with \$3.6 million of that put aside in a reserve fund.

Some \$8 million in next year's budget will be money borrowed for the new civic center. El Cerrito will also see a new position dedicated to public relations, and two new positions in public works.

The financial board will look at the budget at 7 p.m. at City Hall, San Pablo and Manila avenues. The budget is available at City Hall, and should be available online at www.el-cerrito.org. For more information, call 510-215-4312.

— Alan Lopez

Electronic waste drop-off event planned

The city will hold a free electronic waste drop-off event at City Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 3-4. The event is open to all residents and businesses. There are no residency restrictions.

The following e-waste will be accepted: computer monitors; computers/computer components; televisions; VCR and DVD players; toner cartridges; printers; fax machines; copiers; telephone equipment; cell phones; and MP3 players.

Do not bring appliances, batteries, microwaves, paints, pesticides, etc.

Volunteers are needed to help welcome e-waste event participants and direct traffic. If interested, please call Alexis Petru at 510-215-4353.

— Craig Lazzaretti

Police to crack down on seat-belt violations

The traffic Safety Division of the El Cerrito Police Department will be conducting directed patrols throughout the city as part of the state's "Click It or Ticket" seat-belt safety campaign from through June 5. El Cerrito Police Department officers will issue tickets to persons not wearing seat belts.

The maximum fine for a seat-belt violation for a person over 16 years of age is \$91 for a first offense and approximately \$193 for a second offense. The 2005 California Seat Belt Use Survey revealed that 92.5 percent of vehicle occupants wear their seat belts.

— Craig Lazzaretti

Albany

Youths invited to apply for classes, camps

Youths ages 12 to 18 wanting to volunteer for Albany's classes and camps have until June 5 to apply. Applications, camp descriptions and schedules are available at the community center, 1249 Marin Ave., and online at www.albanyca.org.

Meanwhile, the city will hold a free Tennis Across America clinic Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Park tennis courts, 1331 Portland Ave. The event is open to everyone. Rackets and refreshments will be provided. Albany tennis instructor Alex Brown will be among the coaches.

The event is sponsored by the United States Professional Tennis Association and the city. For information, call the recreation department at 510-524-9283. For information about the volunteer program, call 559-7222.

— Alan Lopez

Applications accepted for weed task force

The deadline to apply for the Albany weed and pest-management policy task force has been extended to May 31.

The task force will meet at least twice a month for six months to craft a policy for the use of chemicals to manage weeds and pests in the city. Members do not have to be experts in the field.

The final recommendations from the task force will go to the park and recreation commission for review. The final draft will then go to the City Council for adoption.

To request an application, call 510-524-9283. It should be returned by May 31 to recreation director Melinda Chinn at 1249 Marin Ave., 94706. They can also be faxed at 510-528-8914.

— Alan Lopez

Artists sought for Ocean View sculpture

The Albany Arts Committee is seeking artists to create a sculpture at the entrance of Ocean View Park.

The sculpture should identify Ocean View Park, and incorporate the past or present geographical or environmental character of the park. The sculpture can also be an image that represents the whole city.

The committee is accepting applications until Aug. 1, with proposals from finalists due by Nov. 10. More information is available online at www.albanyca.org/gov/parkart.html.

— Alan Lopez

Residents get hands-on training for emergencies

By Chris Treadway

STAFF WRITER

Residents from El Cerrito, Richmond and Kensington got a chance to test some of the disaster skills they had learned at a hands-on exercise Saturday at the Richmond Fire Department training tower.

The drill at the El Cerrito-Richmond Fire Training Center on Cutting Boulevard, was the final component of federally funded emergency readiness classes offered by the cities.

The classes cover basic responses in the event of a major earthquake, fire or other disaster that leave neighborhoods cut off from emergency personnel and left to fend and care for themselves for a period of time.

Community Emergency Response Team training is offered in El Cerrito and Kensington. Residents and businesses in Richmond and San Pablo can take classes through the Richmond Emergency Action Com-

munity Teams program. Both programs are offered free to the public and are underwritten by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Training includes first aid training, disaster preparedness, basic firefighting, light search and rescue, damage assessment and how to turn off utilities.

Recent additions to training include actions to take in the event of a terrorist attack and showing people how to organize their

neighborhood to be self-sufficient. The next session of classes, 20 hours in all, will be offered in September, said Mayor Bond, a fire prevention specialist with the El Cerrito Fire Department. For details or to enroll, call 510-215-4450.

To sign up for the REACT program, call the Richmond Office of Emergency Services at 620-6866 or visit www.elcerrito.org/Public/oes.htm.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Monday, May 8

■ **CHECK FORGERY** — Police arrested a woman on suspicion of attempting to forge a stolen check at a bank on the 9900 block of San Pablo Ave.

■ **BATTERY THEFT** — Police arrested a Richmond man on suspicion of stealing 59 packs of batteries from Orchard Supply Hardware.

■ **PROPERTY THEFT** — Police arrested a man in the afternoon on suspicion of stealing property from Target.

■ **ACCORD RECOVERED** — Police recovered a stolen 1993 Honda Accord on the 400 block of Kearney Street. The vehicle had been reported stolen in San Rafael on May 6.

■ **STEREO THEFT** — A car stereo was taken from a Toyota Tacoma on the 2000 block of Mono Avenue sometime between 4 p.m. on May 8 and 9 a.m. the next day.

■ **ARMED ROBBERY** — It was reported that an armed robber stole cash from Hollywood Video at 9:10 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9

■ **TRUCK THEFT** — A truck was reported stolen from the 1700 block of Eastshore Boulevard sometime between 5 p.m. on May 9 and 4 a.m. the next day.

■ **ACCORD TAKEN** — A Honda Accord was taken from the 3200 block

of Belmont Avenue sometime between 10 p.m. on May 9 and 8:30 a.m. the next day.

Wednesday, May 10

■ **CONCEALED WEAPON** — Police arrested a man on suspicion of possessing a concealed dagger and illegal drugs on the 6400 block of Hagen Boulevard in the early afternoon.

■ **CHECK FORGERY** — In the afternoon, police arrested an Oakland man on suspicion of forging a check at Bank of America.

■ **ASSAULT** — An elderly man was struck in the back of his head in a robbery attempt at 4 p.m. on the 400 block of Colusa Avenue. Police later arrested one of two men believed to have participated in the assault.

■ **APARTMENT BURGLARY** — Cash and electronic equipment were taken from an apartment on the 6500 block of Moers Lane sometime between 8:45 p.m. and 9:50 p.m. The apartment was entered through a kitchen window.

■ **CAMRY TAKEN** — A blue Toyota Camry was taken from the 900 block of King Drive sometime between 11 p.m. on May 10 and 7:20 a.m. the next day.

■ **TERCEL STOLEN** — A 1986 Toyota Tercel was taken from the 300 block of Pomona Court sometime between 10 p.m. on May 10 and noon the next day. The vehicle was later recovered.

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, May 8

■ **BAG SNATCH ATTEMPT** — An Albany resident reported that at about 8 p.m. a woman attempted to snatch her bag. The suspect, described as white, with red hair, about 28 years old, about 5 feet 9 inches tall, wearing a white sweatshirt, black slacks and carrying a black backpack, was last seen walking east on Marin Avenue from San Pablo Avenue, and was gone when officers arrived.

■ **VANDALISM** — During the day, someone broke a fence on the 600 block of San Gabriel Avenue.

■ **PURSE STOLEN** — An Oakland woman reported that someone stole her purse from her car while it was parked near Solano and San Pablo avenues. She had left the window partially open.

Tuesday, May 9

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night someone broke into a blue 1990 Honda Accord parked on the 900 block of Tulare Street.

■ **ROBBERY** — An employee at Albany Sauna reported that at about 8:30 p.m. a man came into the business and said there was smoke on the side of the building. The employee went out and found the garbage can on fire. He put the lid on the can and returned inside in time to see the man stealing the cash register. The thief was last seen departing in a blue Sub-

aru heading north on San Pablo Avenue with a woman driving.

Wednesday, May 10

■ **DOUBLE ARREST** — At about 3:30 a.m., officers stopped a blue 1985 Chrysler on Santa Fe Avenue near Gilman Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 40-year-old Berkeley man, for possession of stolen property, conspiracy, and petty theft. They also arrested the passenger, a 49-year-old Oakland man, for the same charges along with an outstanding warrant.

■ **HONDA STOLEN, NISSAN RECOVERED** — During the night, someone stole a white 1991 Honda Accord parked on the 800 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses. While taking the report officers located a black 1994 Nissan on the 800 block of Solano Avenue that had been reported as stolen from Nativato. The owner was notified.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night, someone broke into a green 1994 Toyota 4x4 parked on the 900 block of Cornell Avenue by breaking the window.

■ **WALLET STOLEN** — A Berkeley woman reported that while at the Target store on the 1000 block of Eastshore someone stole her wallet from the shopping cart. She did not see anyone take it.

■ **AUTO BREAK-INS** — Someone broke into a yellow 1985 Nissan pickup and a white 2002 Toyota Camry parked

Friday, May 12

■ **DUI** — Police arrested a man on suspicion of driving under the influence at San Pablo Avenue and Moers Lane. The man had a .13 alcohol level, police said.

■ **VEHICLE VANDALISM** — A 2005 Chevy Impala on the 7400 block of Rockway Avenue was vandalized sometime between 9 p.m. on May 12 and 7:45 a.m. the next day. A clown face had been painted on the hood of the vehicle.

Saturday, May 13

■ **LIQUOR THEFT** — Police arrested a man on suspicion of stealing four cans of malt liquor from a liquor store on the 11300 block of San Pablo Avenue. The man had prior convictions for theft, police said.

■ **CIVIC STOLEN** — A 2001 Honda Civic was taken from the 900 block of Elm Street sometime between 3:20 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. The vehicle had been left unlocked with the engine running and a purse in the front seat, police said.

■ **DRUG POSSESSION** — A Richmond couple were arrested at a motel in the evening on suspicion of possessing two grams of rock cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Sunday, May 14

■ **MAN ARRESTED** — At 2:40 a.m., po-

lice arrested a Richmond man on suspicion of drunk driving and resisting at South 50th Street and Wall Avenue. Police say the man was also a gang member and convicted felon who was in possession of a 9 mm handgun.

■ **BICYCLES STOLEN** — A man reported that two bicycles had been taken from a garage on the 8800 block of Stockton Avenue.

■ **ATTEMPTED BURGLARY** — A man who had attempted to break into a vehicle on the 2500 block of Stockton Street drove off in a Jeep after being confronted by the vehicle's owner. The burglar smashed out the window of the vehicle at 11 p.m.

Monday, May 15

■ **SCHOOL BURGLARY** — A person, digital camera, computer and more were taken from El Cerrito School sometime between Friday afternoon and Monday at 8 a.m.

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — Police arrested several juveniles and a 29-year-old woman on suspicion of shoplifting property worth several hundred dollars at Marshalls. All of the suspects were Oakland residents.

■ **BURGLARY** — Hundreds of dollars in cash was taken from a register at Safeway somewhere between 7:42 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. The register was pried open.

Tuesday, May 16

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night, someone broke into a 1990 Mazda parked on the 1100 block of Brighton Avenue.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — At about 3 a.m. an Albany man reported that he had stolen his silver 2002 Honda Civic. It was parked in the lot of the Safeway store on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

Monday, May 15

■ **DRUG ARREST** — Officers stopped a red 1992 Toyota Tercel on the 1200 block of Evelyn Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 30-year-old Albany woman, for drug possession, on suspicion of drugs for sale and carrying spray unlawfully.

■ **TOYOTA RECOVERED** — A white 1995 Toyota Tercel near Ordway and Sonoma streets that had been reported as stolen from Berkeley. The owner was notified.

■ **ROBBERY** — At about 1:30 p.m. two men stole items from a store on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue and departed in a green Honda.

■ **VANDALISM** — An Oakland man reported that someone threw his gray 2000 Mazda Protege into a bin on the 1200 block of Bina Street. There were no witnesses.

— Kristin

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Craig Lazzaretti, Hills editor

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Neighbors

Chess team impressive during U.S. nationals

THIS WAS SUPPOSED to be a rebuilding year for the Berkeley High chess team. They'd lost their star player, Mason Kreimer, to graduation, and they were starting three freshmen.

But under the leadership of captain David Knott, the new jackets shocked everyone (except themselves) at the National 2006 High School Championship in Milwaukee, Wis., last month by finishing among the top 30 teams in the country.

Freshman Andrew Yun got the squad off to a good start by winning his first three matches. "He burst out of the gates," his teammate, freshman Elliott, wasn't too shabby either, winning three out of four. The third freshman, Mason Kreimer, won two games and was the third.

Sophomore Geoffi Zoesfeld didn't shake losing two games on the first day of competition. But he bounced back next day, winning two games and drawing two others. Junior Jamie Irvine had the twins of all — four.

And David, the only senior, won three games and drew the fourth.

In every game, the 'Jackets were facing players with much higher rankings. David played against two people with an average of 300 more master points than he had, yet he beat one and drew the other to a draw.

The most exciting match was one of Mason's, when he was down two pieces for most of the game.

But it was just a ruse. Chess is about thinking several moves ahead, and Mason was setting up his opponent for the kill.

Suddenly, he pounced on the king's rook. Then he sucked him into moving two of his pawns in front of two of his pawns, blocking them from moving.

Before he knew it, his opponent was in a hopeless position, and he conceded. "That was a fun game!" Mason said.

With so much riding on the match, there was a lot of tension going on. "Trash talking per se isn't allowed in chess, but there's a lot of communication with the language."

One way to intimidate your opponent is to make your moves fast, said Elliott. "He takes minutes, you take 15 seconds. It really psyches him out."

Another way is to look like a



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

really, really bad dude (or dudette). The Berkeley High squad played their games wearing aviator sunglasses. A team from Wisconsin donned enormous cheesehead hats.

One team wore matching T-shirts reading, "I'm your worst nightmare."

Another team's T-shirts read, "I'm going to pawn you." And an all-female team wore T-shirts reading, "Stop looking at my chess!"

A team from Texas wore purple silk shirts with gold braid; another team sported huge Cat-in-a-hat-type top hats with a black-and-white chessboard pattern; and yet another played all their matches in pajamas.

Back in Berkeley, the team's success has made chess cool on campus.

"You'll see all kinds of people walking around, carrying chess boards," David said proudly.

With only David graduating this year, the team's prospects for next year look pretty good. Only one thing stands in the way — money.

Despite all the honor they've brought to the school, chess is not considered a sport, so they don't get any money from the athletic department — or from any other school funds, either, for that matter.

The snacks they consume at the club's after-school meetings are paid for out of faculty sponsor Charles Wolff's pocket. The students have to raise the money to send themselves to the national championship.

Some years they raise enough; some years they don't. If you'd like to help them go to next year's nationals, send your donation to the Berkeley High School Development Group, P.O. Box 519, Berkeley CA 94701-0519. Be sure to write "Berkeley High School chess team" on the memo line, or they won't get the money.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2768 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

FACES & PLACES

Katie sends out call for her dancers

Katie Maltsberger isn't sure how many students she's had since opening Katie's Dance Studio & Co. in 1966 in El Cerrito. "Over that many years, I'd say a lot," she said.

Now Maltsberger wants to get in contact with studio alumni for a reunion show being held at King Middle School in Berkeley at 3 p.m. on June 24.

"Since it is the beginning of my 40th year of teaching, I am trying to contact as many graduates of my dance studio as possible to come and participate in the show," she said. "Naturally, I have lost track of many people, but if friends and family of these dancers see an announcement in the newspaper, perhaps they would contact me."

Maltsberger has seen a number of award-winning dancers since opening in the city where she grew up and graduated from high school.

But she did allow that some things have changed since the early days. "There's a lot of pressure on kids now to excel at everything," she said, whether it's sports, piano or dancing. "I want everyone to have a good experience and enjoy their time here and enjoy their time on stage."

Overall, Maltsberger said, "I've enjoyed all these years, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

For details on the studio or the reunion show, call 510-524-1310.

— Chris Treadway

RESTAURANT TRAINING CEREMONY: Chakay McDonald, the owner of Louisiana Fried Chicken in El Cerrito and Oakland, will be the guest speaker Tuesday at a completion ceremony for the restaurant training program "Cooking up Success." The ceremony will include taste samples and a check presentation from Wells Fargo Bank. It will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the 3 Seasons Cafe at Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, in San Pablo. The public is invited. RSVP at 510-236-3690.

— Alan Lopez

CERRITO THEATER MODEL ON DISPLAY: The Cerrito Theater model crafted by Hercules resident Charlie Moran will be on display at Skein Lane, a knitting and yarn store at 7512 Fair-



KATIE MALTSBERGER directs a rehearsal last week at Katie's Dance Studio in El Cerrito. The studio wants to contact past students for an upcoming reunion show.

mount Ave., until the end of the month.

After that, the model will be entered into the California State Fair competition, said Al Miller, a member of the Friends of the Cerrito Theater.

In the meantime, theater supporters can purchase engraved plaques that will be displayed on and around the theater. The plaques will range from \$100 for display on theater furniture, to \$5,000 for a "star" built into the sidewalk underneath the marquee.

For details, go online at www.cerritotheater.org. Skein Lane can be reached at 510-525-9276. The Cerrito Theater is scheduled to reopen in August.

— Alan Lopez

HIGH NOTE FOR CHORALE: Saturday is the time to offer a toast to the Contra Costa Chorale, the community chorus that is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a performance and champagne reception Saturday in Kensington.

The chorale was originally known as the Richmond Symphony Chorus, and has some members who have been harmonizing with it since those days. The chorus, today based in El Cerrito, incorporated in 1979 as the nonprofit Contra Costa Chorale, which operates as an outreach program of Contra Costa College.

Saturday's celebration, titled "Forty-Forthissimo: An Anniversary Opera Night with the Contra Costa Chorale," will offer a "lively sampler of opera favorites" and takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley,

1 Lawson Road in Kensington. General admission tickets are \$17.50; senior, student and disabled tickets are \$15. There is no charge for persons under age 16.

A second celebration performance — minus the champagne — will take place Sunday at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette.

Tickets to both performances will be available at the door or by calling 510-527-2026.

— Chris Treadway

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: The list of this year's scholarship winners honored by the Retired Teachers of West Contra Costa was released this week. The following students from El Cerrito High School were named winners of \$1,500 scholarships, and will be honored at the group's monthly luncheon June 1 at the Richmond Masonic Hall: Mariel Honigman, Alex Pfeifer-Roseblum, Sarah Price, Allison Swislocki, Diane Tsuzaki.

— Chris Treadway

JOIN THE TEAM: El Cerrito High School has a team of students participating in the 20th annual San Francisco AIDS Walk taking place in Golden Gate Park on July 16, and you can help them reach their goal. The student team has a goal of raising \$1,500. As of Monday, they had \$425 in pledges. To help out, go to www.kintera.org/faf/search/searchteam.asp, click on "2006 Registered Teams" and scroll down through the list to "El Cerrito High School 8942" and click on the link to find team donations to date and sponsor-

ship information.

— Chris Treadway

PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE: Residents are invited to attend El Cerrito's fourth annual public works open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the city's corporation yard, 7450 Schmidt Lane.

The event will include equipment displays, prizes and refreshments. The East Bay Municipal Utility District, Stege Sanitary District, and the fire department will answer questions.

The event is part of the National Public Works Week campaign. Call 510-215-4382.

— Alan Lopez

ALBANY MEMORIAL CEREMONY: Albany's veterans will be honored on Wednesday at the Albany Veteran's Building in Memorial Park. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the ceremony begins at 7:30. After the ceremony, a concert of patriotic music will be given by the Albany Adult Jazz Band followed by an opportunity to dance. Light refreshments will be served.

— Craig Lazeretti

YOUTH, CITIZEN OF YEAR NOMINATIONS: The Albany Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for Albany Youth and Albany Citizen of the Year. Both awards date back to the 1950s.

For either award, nominees must be residents of Albany and involved in volunteer work.

If you know a worthy candidate, submit a one-page letter with your name, and the name, address and phone number of the nominee, along with a compelling description of the person's accomplishments during 2005-06 and other reasons the nominee should be considered (family members can not nominate each other).

Send nominations to the Chamber of Commerce, 1108 Solano Ave., Albany 94706 or e-mail to albanychamber@albany-chamber.org. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. The nomination deadline is May 31.

Winners will be honored at a chamber-sponsored dinner, and will ride in the Solano Stroll parade in September.

For more details call the Karen Carlson-Olson at the chamber, 510-525-1771.

— Chris Treadway

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OF THE WEEK

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Humane Society.

Dogs: 6-month-old female black and white Border Collie mix; 9-month-old female tri-color Chihuahua mix; 1-year-old male Golden retriever; 1-year-old male black and black Chihuahua mix; 1-year-old female amber brown American pit bull terrier mix; 2-year-old male tan and black German Shepherd; 2-year-old male black Chihuahua mix; 2-year-old female black and brown Shepherd/Collie mix; 2-year-old male blond cocker spaniel mix; 2-year-old female black Labrador retriever mix; 2-year-old male black and brown Chihuahua mix; 2-year-old female black Chihuahua mix.

Cats: 8-week-old male gray tabby domestic medium hair mix; 9-week-old female black and white short hair (DSH); 9-week-old male black and white tabby mix; 9-week-old female black and white DSH; 9-week-old male black and white DSH; 10-week-old female gray and white tabby mix; 1-year-old female white DSH; 3-year-old female white DSH; 3-year-old tabby mix; 4-year-old male black domestic long hair (DLH); 2-year-old female orange and white mix; 3-year-old male Norwegian Forest mix; 3-year-old female tortoiseshell DSH; 2-year-old male white and gray tabby.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$75 — including spaying, neutering and age-appropriate vaccinations. There is an overnight period. The Berkeley-East Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.



BERKELEY-EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

ESPRIT is a 3-year-old female Australian shepherd mix who may be available for adoption from the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Esprit plays well with other dogs but would prefer to live in a feline-free home. For more information about Esprit or other animals available for adoption, call or visit the Humane Society.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

GUEST COMMENTARY

Hilltop must find way to serve community

By Leslie Reckler
I AM WRITING in response to the May 5 article "Resident students wait-listed at Hilltop."

This community has been tremendously supportive of Kensington Hilltop Elementary School and the entire district. We have helped to pass all recent bond measures and have approved several property tax increases. We recently spent \$17 million on completely renovating the Hilltop school. I believe the community gives quite generously to the parent groups and supports all carnivals, silent auctions, fund-raisers, etc. All of this financial attention has certainly paid off. Hilltop is the top elementary school in the district. We are lucky to have it.

The undercapacity issue of 2006 is a wake-up call for the school and for the entire community. The school and the district were unprepared for this issue, which, with 20/20 hindsight, was entirely predictable. Hilltop is a prime draw for new residents. More often than not, real estate advertisements for Kensington homes boast they are in the Hilltop school district. It is certainly one of the main reasons we bought a house here in 2000. It was (and still is) extremely appealing to me to be able to send my children to a newly refurbished, top quality public school that is within walking distance of my house.

The community and the school need to come to grips with the possibility that there are more kids living here than anticipated. Short-term and long-term plans need to be developed — with some urgency.

I do not know how the district developed its demographic plan, but for starters, it would probably not be a bad idea to tool up a survey that can be mailed to all residents immediately. The survey would simply ask some basic demographic questions to get a feel for who lives here, what kind of home sales we might see in the future, and the likelihood of children attending Hilltop in the future.

We live in the kind of community where we would probably get a good response rate. If that did not work, it would not be so terribly difficult or expensive to offer a summer job or internship where someone could go door to door to collect the information.

We also need to look immediately at what we can do to keep more kids at Hilltop and

not transfer them to other schools in the district. The current transfer procedure is clearly not viable: Imagine being the parent of a wait-listed student, and having to wait until the fifth day after school begins to figure out where your child is going. This is not fair to the child or the family when so many move here to have community.

We need to look at short-term plans that will create flexibility in 2006, including hiring additional staff or increasing class size. As I understand it, kindergarten is not required to have 20 students. A major class size reduction reform was implemented in 1996 for grades K-3. I am not denying that this reduction is noble in its cause; it aims to increase achievement in reading and math, and is certainly ideal.

This reduction gives schools a financial carrot to limit class size but is not mandatory. These programs are voluntary incentive programs in which districts decide whether and/or how much to participate. In fact, kindergarten average class size is not to exceed 31 students; no class larger than 33. Grade 1-3 average class size is not to exceed 30 students; no class larger than 32.

In the past, school districts that incurred a class size penalty were able to submit waivers to have the penalty adjusted. I admit that I have no idea how to calculate the penalty or assess its financial impact. But this, as well as hiring teachers, are options that may need to be explored.

This all comes when there is talk of adding grades 7 and 8 to Hilltop, and when there is talk of added full-day kindergarten.

This issue does not affect only incoming kindergartners. It affects the entire community. Will families have one child at Hilltop and other children at other schools in the district? Will Realtors no longer be able to promote the Hilltop school? Will it affect property values because Kensington may not now appeal to the widest audience? Since so many ties are made at school, will we damage our sense of community if our children are forced to attend other schools?

I encourage the community to care about what happens at Hilltop and to stay involved in the discussion that is about to unfold.

Leslie Reckler is a Kensington resident.

You have
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.
It is caused by
repetitive movements.



It's probably from changing
all of those numbers
out in front of the gas station.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not a terrific success

I must respond to the letter writer who claims Marin Avenue's restriping is a terrific success and who urges restriping Claremont Avenue.

Marin is only a success if you look at half the picture.

The restriping did exactly what was anticipated. It makes pedestrian crossing and left turns from Marin easier, but car crossings and left turns onto Marin harder. It slows traffic speed slightly but makes Marin much less efficient, which diverts cars to side streets and Solano Avenue.

It backs up cars three and four blocks at lights and keeps cars idling and polluting through several cycles. The restriping has not significantly increased bicycle traffic on Marin, while inconveniencing thousands of local residents and costing \$1 million.

I went to many hearings before the restriping, and I'm disappointed the traffic committee and City Council never seriously considered the traffic engineers' less costly, less drastic suggestions for slowing traffic, including signage and a bumper-sticker campaign.

The four-lane Marin had fewer accidents than comparable boulevards; the three-lane Marin is severely impaired as an evacuation route.

Some of the same voices for restriping are the loudest now against shoreline development. Excuse me for being skeptical about political hysteria.

Peg Healy
Albany

Measure F good for Albany

In 2008, Albany will be 100 years old. Most of our streets and storm drains will be about 80 years old.

Many of our homes have been remodeled or repaired several times during these years. As with our expensive homes, we must maintain our city's infrastructure if we are to retain value and function.

Our storm drains are broken and clogged with roots. Many original pipes are now undersized with the growth of our city. Streets are flooded during heavy rains. Tragically, some of our neighbors have had rivers of water rushing through their homes.

Many of our streets are in poor condition, with deep cracks requiring extensive repairs of potholes. Other streets have small cracks needing repairs to prevent serious deterioration. Measure F funds of four years ago used for paving streets are nearly exhausted.

Measure F will provide approximately \$760,000 each year to fund these repairs on a pay-as-you-go basis over several (15) years. Under Measure F, each homeowner will pay \$96 per year (25 cents per day), condos \$72.

Passage of Measure F makes Albany eligible for matching grants for projects that we otherwise cannot afford. We cannot pass up these grant funds and let them go to other cities.

Albany and other cities continue to suffer from the loss of revenues under Proposition 13 and other state raids on local revenues. Your City Council was elected to make responsible decisions for the good of our city. We have to pay these taxes, too, but we see this tax as necessary to maintain quality of life in Albany.

Keep Albany a safe and attractive

place to live and raise a family. Please vote "yes" on Measure F.

Councilman Robert Lieber
Mayor Allan Maris
Albany

Let the people decide

The Citizens for the Albany Shoreline is moving ahead with the Albany Waterfront Specific Plan Initiative in spite of requests from the city to stop our campaign.

We had continually asked the city to plan for comprehensive use of the waterfront and were turned down; now the city has tried to negotiate with CAS at the last moment, with no plans of asking Caruso to stop his project as well.

It is blatantly one-sided in favor of the development, and the city process is still being developer-driven. The city is being told the developer will bring \$2 million a year to the city with his retail/housing complex. But how much more is going into Caruso's pocket? He is in business to make himself richer, with the "bait" that he will improve the lives of Albany residents.

Money isn't everything. The quality of life and maintenance of our small-town atmosphere is at stake. The waterfront and the only open space left in Albany is being threatened. The health of our children and grandchildren is being eroded by the constant pollution of more traffic on the Interstate 80 corridor and our city streets.

The city is selling its soul to the devil for \$2 million.

The initiative at least gives the people a chance to decide what they want done at the shoreline via of a series of open public meetings. An environmental impact report will be done on any plan drawn up by the nine-member task force, and this plan will go to the voters.

Measure C still is in effect and will also be put before the voters. Let the people of Albany decide the future of their shoreline, not a city plan put through by a developer from somewhere else!

Diane Ichiyasu
Albany

Don't give away our shoreline

I have been collecting signatures for the Albany shoreline initiative and I have found that most people are supportive of this proposal, and even thank me for the time and effort I am putting into it.

I have read letters, and even your editorials, that seem to think all that is

wanted is a park on the Albany shoreline. Actually, half of the land is between the 600 foot set-back and Interstate 80, and allows ample room for development to at least replace revenues to Albany.

This dual goal — park and development — is achievable, and there is no reason to give away Albany's "family jewels" to Caruso.

A mall on the Albany beach would be the end of the shoreline for the foreseeable future.

Christine Healy
Albany

Closing streets not the answer

Living a half-block off Solano Avenue, I know how traffic and parking can be come annoying. But it seems counterintuitive to decide to close streets because they are being used.

We live in a city, not the suburbs. I doesn't make sense environmentally in terms of serving residents to increase the length of the drive and force people into the jam-ups on San Pablo Avenue.

Making the drive into Albany less convenient for the new apartment dwellers would probably discourage many of them from discovering the businesses on Solano.

Look at Berkeley. In their war on the automobile, they have closed streets and made it generally unpleasant to try to go anywhere (not to mention gouging with the meters). I haven't shopped regularly there for years. I've watched the downtown decline, and now it appears Telegraph Avenue is following suit.

I am 100 percent in favor of speed bumps and circles to control speed, but closing the streets to through traffic will only hurt businesses in both communities. I thought El Cerrito was our neighbor, not our enemy, or am I missing something? Are we becoming so elitist that our neighbors are no longer welcome?

Doris Quirk
Albany

Pedestrian safety improved

Stephanie Travis' letter (Journal, May 12) asserts that pedestrian safety has not been addressed by the Marin Avenue restriping. I strongly disagree with her contention.

I have lived within one block of Marin Avenue for more than 10 years, and walk or run across Marin Avenue at least 10 times per week. The restriping project has made my Marin Avenue crossings significantly safer.

In the new configuration, a pedestrian can move into the crosswalk to the edge of the bicycle lane and be very visible to motorists before moving into the car lane. With the old striping, pedestrians were much less visible when moving into the car area.

In addition, with the old striping, the pedestrian was often in a dangerous situation where the car in the right lane had stopped but the car in the left lane had not. This has been addressed with the new striping, as well.

I also regularly drive the entire length of Marin in Albany, and my drive times have been lengthened by no more than 15 or 30 seconds. This seems to me a small price to pay for dramatically improved pedestrian safety.

Steve K...
Albany

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 916 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530. 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7699.

Stage Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stagesd.dst.ca.us.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarrson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. 510-215-4305.

Public Works — Report problems with city trees and sidewalks, burned-out street lights, potholes and clogged storm drains. 510-215-4382.

Recycling Center — 7501 Schmidt Lane. 510-215-4350.

Web site: www.el-cerrito.org

KENSINGTON

Police Protection and Community Services District — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month, except August, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Addresses Police Department, Parks and Recreation and solid waste issues. 510-526-4141.

CITY government

ALBANY
City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave. 510-528-5710

Mayor Allan Maris
City Council — Meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays at the City Hall Council Chamber.

Community Development — Includes planning, building and maintenance. 510-528-5760

Web site: www.albanyca.org

EL CERRITO
City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300.

Mayor Janet Abelson
City Council — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays in the Garden

Asked to tone it down, author says no thanks

IRA was founded in 1956 as a professional organization for those involved in teaching reading to learners of all ages. Our members are dedicated to promoting high levels of literacy for

— From the International Reading Association (IRA) Web site, ira.org

IN THE PAST WEEK, I have received four e-mails about Patricia Polacco's canceled appearance at the latest IRA conference. Polacco, as you remember from a previous column, is the author of several wonderful children's picture books, including one of my favorites, "Pink and Blue." She is also an outspoken proponent of "No Child Left Behind," which led to the cancellation of her speech.

On her Web site is an open letter addressed to "All Educators, Librarians and Media Specialists Regarding the Cancellation of my appearance at the IRA in Chicago on May 2 and 3, 2006." The letter then goes on to explain the situation and how it came about.

I started when Polacco was approached by The Buchanan Center in Dublin, Ohio, to be invited to participate in events at IRA. Unaware she was speaking for McGraw-Hill, she accepted, and she says in her letter, "It is always such an honor for me to speak and interact with teachers and librarians from around the country."

However, she began to receive telephone calls and e-mails regarding the content of her speech, and eventually she realized the questions were regarding her "deep concern" about the No Child Left Behind Mandate ... as well as her concern that there is a disconnect between this mandate and the IRA/McGraw-Hill Committee on which manufactures, and profits from the sale of these tests to schools across all over the country.

Polacco said she was asked to give a speech that was "uncontroversial and political," and she responded by saying that "the voice of the American teacher comes from 'upbeat' and they caught in the vice grip of most controversial and political issues that has ever been created on the American stage." She went on to say that if they had a problem with her refusal to rewrite her speech, they should rescind the invitation — and ultimately this is what they did. The New York Times covered this issue in a May 13



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

It is not easy to speak one's mind, especially when success in your chosen profession is dependent on the opinions of others.

piece by Susan Saulny called "Critic of No Child Left Behind Was Disinvited From Meeting." This thorough article gives additional information about the original agreement Polacco had with McGraw-Hill, including the two agreed-upon topics for her speeches — neither of which specifically included "No Child Left Behind." And yet, in Polacco's opinion, they did — because they asked her to address the idea that teachers are heroes and need encouragement. To Polacco's mind, this kind of acknowledgment must include the challenge of adhering to a policy that has what she calls a "negative impact" on education.

After hearing about this situation, I am awed by Polacco's determination and dedication. Here is a children's author who could write her books, give cheery talks to librarians and teachers and consider that enough. Instead, she has taken her fame, and used it to speak out against a policy she adamantly opposes. Her passion is a lesson to all of us, particularly our children, and her words and actions are heroic.

It is not easy to speak one's mind, especially when success in your chosen profession is dependent on the opinions of others. In fact, there may be people who will be put off by these strongly expressed views and who will therefore not buy her books or check them out of the library. On the other hand, there will be teachers and librarians — like me — who will be proud to suggest a book that carries the name Patricia Polacco.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@acilibrary.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720, Ext. 17.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Albany Library

1247 Marin Ave.
510-526-3720 or www.acilibrary.org

Hours: Mondays, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, closed; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library's teen movie program continues with a series of films by legendary anime director Hayao Miyazaki on the first Wednesday of the month. The following films are planned: June 7: "Kiki's Delivery Service"; July 5: "Spirited Away." This program is aimed at middle and high school students. They start at 5 p.m. and finish by 7:15 p.m. at the latest. For information, visit the teen area at the Albany Library or contact Teen Services Librarian Julia Witwer at Ext. 20.

■ Meet Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and city of Albany and county senior services representatives on Tuesday, May 30, at 1:30 p.m. to find out what services for seniors and their caregivers are available in your community. Some of the services for older adults that will be represented are: health insurance counseling; senior injury prevention; senior center; Meals on Wheels; money management; elder abuse prevention; In Home Services; paratransit; foster grandparents; caregiver support; adult day care; Homeward Bound book delivery; senior peer counseling; and much more. Free handouts and refreshments will be available.

■ Free drop-in homework help is available for students in third through fifth grades. The homework center is open Mondays and Thursdays (except county holidays), from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Emphasis is placed on math and writing skills. No registration is required. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17 or e-mail

jwinkelstein@acilibrary.org.

■ Weekly singalongs are held Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. with Dale Allen Boland. The sessions are free and for all ages. No registration required. Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

■ Drop-in knitting groups for all ages are held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Work on your own project or make pet blankets and children's hats for victims of recent disasters. Instructions, yarn and needles are provided for library projects. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

El Cerrito Library

6510 Stockton Ave.
510-526-7512 or www.cccilb.org

Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, closed; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library is offering free beginning Internet classes on Saturday mornings. All classes start at 10 a.m. and last one hour. Please sign up in advance. The schedule of classes is: May 20: Finding newspaper articles; May 27: Travel information; June 3: Finding magazine articles.

■ Judith Steinberg Turiel will give a talk on her book, "Our Parents, Ourselves: How American Health Care Imperils Middle Age and Beyond," on Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m. Turiel, a daughter of aging parents, combines personal stories with medical information to explore how aging and social and health care policies affect our daily lives. She will cover pressing issues such as healthy aging and independent living, dementia and depression, women as caregivers, and Medicare, emphasizing that her own baby-boomer generation must start thinking now about their years ahead.

EL CERRITO SCHOOL NOTES

El Cerrito High School

JAZZ FESTIVAL WINNERS: El Cerrito High School and Portola Middle School took home a bevy of trophies at the 44th annual Reno Jazz Festival, held April 27-29, at the University of Nevada in Reno. Portola's Malachi Whitson was named Outstanding Middle School Performer, Rhythm Section, and El Cerrito High School senior Alex Pfeiffer-Rosenblum took home the Best Original Composition for a Large Ensemble award for his piece "Winter Bloom," which was performed at the festival by the El Cerrito High Jazz band. Portola also received third place, Outstanding Middle School Combo, and sixth place, Outstanding Middle School Band, while El Cerrito High received fourth place, Outstanding High School Band, Division A. To see a complete list of winners, go to www.unr.edu/rjf/2005_Scores_awards.html.

GRAD NITE VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are still needed to help with Grad Nite at the Turf Club on June 10 for any of these two-hour shifts: Midnight-2, 2-4,

3-5 a.m. (or whatever you can do to help out). Parent volunteers will provide security during the event (mainly watching the exits) and will be needed throughout the evening to supervise various games and activities. Anyone interested in volunteering and helping with this event should contact Carol Rhodes at caroldavishrhodes@aol.com or necklacelady@aol.com.

MEMORY BOARDS: It's not too late to pick up your GRAD NITE 2006 memory boards that will be displayed at the party. Memory boards can be put together by parents (as a surprise for their students), by the student alone, or as a joint family project. You can use photographs chronicling your child's life, drawings, newspaper clippings or other materials. Pick up the blank memory boards ASAP in Mr. Austin's Room (Room 35). Return the boards between May 30 and June 2. Students take the boards home at the end of the Grad Nite Party. If they forget, boards can be picked up in the

See EL CERRITO, Page A6

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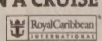
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Free week may be redeemed on first visit or exchanged for special first membership discount. Free week offer valid with any other offer.

■ Magic and giant puppets come to the library on Saturday, June 10, at 11 a.m. when ventriloquist Tony Borders will present his show "Talk to the Animals!" Children of all ages and their parents are invited to enjoy the show and learn more about the Contra Costa County Library's 2006 Kids' Summer Reading Program "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales."

■ The May meeting of Readers Anonymous has been canceled. The group usually meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month. Future titles: June 27: "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson; July 25: "Stones for Ibarra" by Harriet Doerr.

■ If you would like to learn about the Internet or basic word processing, the library offers hour-long appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Its Internet docents will help you learn as much as you would like. Call the library to make an appointment.

Kensington Library

61 Arlington Ave.
510-524-3043 or www.cccilb.org

Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, closed; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The next meeting of the library's book club will be Monday, May 22, at 7 p.m. The group will discuss "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway. Future titles: June 26: "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry; July 24: "The Sea Wolf" by Jack London; Aug. 28: "How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents" by Julia Alvarez; Sept. 25: "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain; Oct. 23: "The Piano Tuner" by David Mason.

■ Pastel paintings by Oakley artist Nancy Roberts will be featured through June 15 at the library. In her "Delta Series" Roberts explores the

intricate structure of bare trees and shimmering reflections, while her still lifes and florals present a lively new take on familiar subjects.

■ Meet real wild animals during Bonnie Cromwell's Classroom Safari on Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

■ A family story time will held Tuesday, May 30 at 7 p.m. All ages are welcome (best for preschool and older).

■ "Castoffs," the library's knitting club, will meet next on Monday, June 5, at 7 p.m. for an evening of knitting, show and tell and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome, and some help will be provided. This group meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Contra Costa County

■ The Contra Costa County Library's summer reading program will run June 12-Aug. 21. Follow the animal tracks on your reading record to fun and prizes during the kids reading program, "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales," for children through grade 5. See what's lurking around the corner for all teens who read during "Creature Feature: Teens Read 2006," for teens in grades 6-12. The library system also introduces the first annual adult reading program for everyone age 18 and older. Simply read and submit a raffle ticket for your chance to win exciting prizes in weekly county-wide drawings held throughout the summer. For more information or to get started, please contact your community library, call 1-800-984-4636 or visit www.cccilb.org.

— Craig Lazzaretto

E-mail library activity items to journal@cctimes.com, or fax to 510-262-2776, or mail to The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

ALBANY SCHOOL NOTES

Albany High School

FILM SHOWING: Embracing Diversity Films presents "Out of the Shadow" on Tuesday May 23, from 7-9:30 p.m. in the library. Award-winning filmmaker Susan Smiley chronicles her mother's paranoid schizophrenia. A story of madness and dignity, shame and love, "Out of the Shadow" illuminates a national plight through one family's struggle, and helps dispel the stigmas and misconceptions surrounding this harrowing illness. This film is not appropriate for children under 12. The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion, and admission is free. For information, contact Sally Douglas Arce at 510-527-1328, Maxine Tatmon-Gilkinson at 510-243-0797 or www.outoftheshadow.com. For information about Embracing Diversity Films, contact <http://embracingdiversityfilms.org/about.htm>.

TEACHER APPRECIATION: The AHS PTA is hosting a Teacher and Staff Appreciation International High Tea on Wednesday, May 24, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The PTA will provide beverages, plates, cups, napkins, utensils, a small gift for each teacher and staff member, and dishes both savory and sweet, for the beginnings of a delicious tea. However, with more than 70 teachers and staff members to serve, help is needed. Volunteers are needed to help with setup beginning at noon, service from 2 to 4:30, and cleanup ending at 4:30. Volunteers are also

See ALBANY, Page A6

STAGING SAMPLE SALE

Saturday & Sunday May 20th & 21st
10am to 2pm



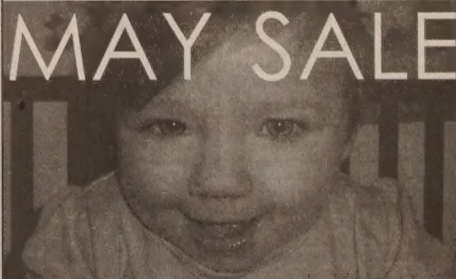
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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received **Thursdays one week prior to publication**. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to pmiddings@ccctimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

Coming Up

Literary events

■ **Poetry Express** — Mondays, 7 p.m., Priya Indian Cuisine, 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Weekly open mike hosted by Mark Stas. Coming up: May 22: Garrett Murphy. June 5: Avotika, Ramon Pinero. Details: berkeleypoetryexpress@yahoo.com.

■ **Rhythm and Muse** — 7 p.m., Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. Piano & two mics available. Free; donations appreciated. Upcoming: May 27: John Menaghan. June 24, Marc Elithu Hofstadter. Details: 510-644-6893 or 510-527-9753.

Meetings

■ **California Writers Club** — Berkeley branch meeting, May 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Barnes & Noble Book Sellers, 98 Broadway, Jack London Square. Charlotte Cook, Marc Paul Kaplan, Jana McBurney-Lin comprise panel on "Surprise Characters - Animators or Antagonists? What to do about Runaway Fictional Characters." Free. Details: 510-272-0120, berkeleywritersclub.org.

■ **Berkeley High School Site Council** — May 23, 4:30-6 p.m., Conference Room B, Berkeley High School, 1990 Alston Way, Berkeley. Main agenda items: first semester grades and Small Schools data, Student Support Coordination, a proposal to merge Shared Governance and Site Council.

■ **Berkeley East-Bay Gray Panthers** — May 24, 1:30 p.m., 1403 Addison St., Berkeley. Political analyst Cary Sanders talks on "The Immigration Dilemma: What Kind of Country Are We?" All Welcome. Details: 510-548-9696, GrayPanthersBerk@aol.com.

Community

■ **2006 Albany Youth of the Year Award** — Albany Chamber of Commerce now accepting nominations for Albany High School students involved in volunteer work. Students don't have to live in Albany. Submit a one-page letter with the name of candidate, their address, phone number and a compelling argument describing in detail the accomplishments of their nominee during the period 2005-2006, and why nominee should be considered. Family members can not nominate each other. Please mail your nomination letter to the Chamber of Commerce, 1108 Solano Ave., Albany 94706; or e-mail to albany-chamber@albanychamber.org. Include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address if you have one. Details: 510-525-1771.

■ **Albany Senior Center** — Events at 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. May 19 & 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., AARP's Driver Safety Class. Registration, pre-payment in person required. Must attend both classes for insurance discount. Cost: \$10 to AARP. June 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Traditional Circle Dance. Details: 510-524-9122.

■ **Smoke detector handouts** — May 20, at least 60 households in blocks around Essex Street, Berkeley. Berkeley Firefighters Association will go door to door, handing out smoke detectors and batteries to residences in the neighborhood of a recent string of fires, to ensure safety

of citizens, increase awareness. Comments on fires: Deputy Chief David Orth 510-981-5501, dorth@cl.berkeley.ca.us.

■ **Hopalong Animal Rescue** — May 20, 27; 12-3 p.m., Your Basic Bird, 2940 College Ave., Berkeley. Cats available for adoption. Details: hopsalong.org, 510-267-1915.

■ **Berkeley Farmers' Markets** — May 20, Saturday Market, Center Street & Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. 11 a.m., chef demonstration, talk & book signing with Jessica Prentice, 1 p.m., choral music. June 3, annual Family Fun Festival, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Civic Center Park, Center Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Featuring live performances by Asheba, Young Fiddlers, Maggie the Clown, Lariat Larry, EarthCapades Environmental Vaudeville, more. Hands-on activities, informational booths. Details: ecologycenter.org, 510-548-3333.

■ **Himalayan Fair** — May 20, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; May 21, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Live Oak Park, 1300 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Authentic Himalayan arts, antiques and modern crafts, live music, dance performances, exotic food. Tickets: \$8-\$20; free for children 12 and under. Details: 510-869-3995.

■ **Satsuki Arts Festival & Bazaar** — 4-9 p.m., May 20, 12-7 p.m. May 21; Berkeley Buddhist Temple, 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley. 1-5 p.m. May 21, entertainment includes San Jose Taiko, more. Japanese food, Asian arts & crafts, silent auction, carnival games. Free. Details: 510-841-1356, berkeleyasangha.org/bazaar1.htm.

■ **Berkeley Historical Society** — Spring 2006 Walking Tours, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. May 20: Sistema Tract in West Berkeley: A Small Chilean

Ranch Transformed. June 3: Lorin: Kindred Spirit or Conquest? June 10, 11 a.m., New Berkeley City College Building. Cost: \$8-\$10 each, \$30 for all tours. Reservations: make check payable to Berkeley Historical Society, mail to P.O. Box 1190, Berkeley, CA 94701. Details: cityofberkeley.info/histsoc/ or 510-848-0181.

■ **Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser** — May 21, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, orange juice, coffee served. Cost: \$3-\$6. Proceeds benefit American Golf Program For Senior Centers. Details: 510-524-9122.

■ **Community Labyrinth Peace Walk** — May 21, 3 p.m., Willard Middle School, 2425 Stuart St., Berkeley. All welcome, rain cancels. Details: info@eastbaylabyrinthproject.org, 510-526-7377.

■ **La Place du Marche** — May 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. School becomes an authentic French marketplace: French products for sale; French food & drinks; arts, crafts & games for children; French music; raffle for trip to Paris & more. Proceeds benefit Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley. Details: 510-526-7377.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** — St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. May 23, 11 a.m., Marian Altman shows slides Cuba trip. May 30, TBA. Details: 510-845-6830.

■ **Albany Veterans' Ceremony** — May 24, 7:30 p.m., Albany Veterans' Building in Memorial Park. Following ceremony, Albany Adult Jazz B performs concert of patriotic music. Light refreshments served.

See CALENDAR, Page A7

Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park from June 12-16. The tickets, including two games and shoes, will be available at the door or in advance from Young Ha at 510-559-9211 or youngha57@hotmail.com. Come from 10 to 10:30 a.m. on June 4 if you prefer a quiet and calm environment, or from 10:30 a.m. to noon if you enjoy bustle and crowds. Contact www.losethetrainingwheels.org.

Marin Elementary

AFTER-SCHOOL ARTS PROGRAM: Arts educator and longtime friend of the Marin school community Bobbie Gould, who was busy making Mexican mirrors at Marin de Mayo on May 13, is organizing her after-school art program for next fall and has limited spaces available, mostly on Fridays. She is the mother of three now-grown Albany school kids and the author of four award-winning books, and has been running her art program for 16 years, across the street from the school at 969 Curtis, an easy walk for Marin students. The sessions run from either 2:45 or 3:05 to 5 p.m. For information, contact Bobbie at 510-527-0661 or rgould@ml.net.

Ocean View Elementary

OPEN HOUSE: On Thursday, May 25, Ocean View will hold its annual Open House from 7-8 p.m. The Science Investigations Fair will be held in the multi-purpose room.

— Bob Menzimer

E-mail school notes items to Bob Menzimer at megabob@pacbell.net.

Albany

FROM PAGE A5

needed to bring finger-foods. In keeping with the theme of an international tea, the PTA asks for items that can be consumed, for the most part, without utensils. Please, no salads, casseroles, soups, or ice cream. If you would like to volunteer your time and/or a dish, please contact Meiling Lincoff at 510-524-5129 or at lincoffa@aol.com.

SENIOR LUNCH: Helps is still needed for the senior lunch. Needed are two flats (24 per flat) of seltzer water (lemon, lime, orange, etc.), 12 flats of water, and the loan of 15 coolers or large tubs for drinks, labeled with owner's name; please contact Peggy Schmidt at jsch1492@aol.com or 510-237-7166. Also needed are someone to purchase two large bags of tortilla chips and one 64-ounce container of fresh salsa at Costco, and nine volunteers who can drop supplies off the night before or the morning of the event; please contact Pira Cirillo at ccirillothompson@sbcglobal.net or 510-527-0642. Also needed are people to purchase and wash six flats of strawberries; please contact Connie Kirk at ck_lee@clink4.berkeley.edu. Also, 15 volunteers are needed to set up on June 8 in the afternoon or June 9 in the early morning; please contact Karen Moss at karenmoss@sbcglobal.net. And 15 volunteers are needed to serve on June 9 from noon until 1:30, and 15 volunteers to clean up on June 9 after 1:30; please contact Karen Moss at karenmoss@sbcglobal.net.

GRADUATION SPEAKERS: Attention all seniors: If you are interested in being one of the speakers at large in this year's graduation, please see Ms. Wollenweber in the attendance office. Tryouts will be held soon so please sign up as soon as possible.

CLOTHING DRIVE: Kiara Saucer's Future Leaders Institute project, the Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive, ends today. Wardrobe for Opportunity provides professional clothing and career support to low-income jobseekers in the Bay Area so they can secure employment and become economically self-sufficient. Please contribute gently worn, work-appropriate clothing, shoes and accessories and help make a difference in someone's life. Clothing should be in current style, in good condition, clean and on hangers. Other great items to contribute are gently used shoes, new cosmetics, new hosiery, umbrellas and jewelry. All clothing and accessories should be appropriate for interviewing and work. All donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be available upon donation.

PTSA NEWS: The PTSA is now officially a PTSA, with updated bylaws approved by the state PTA and ratified by membership on May 8. It has a full board of officers for 2006-2007, including adult co-president Andrew Austin and student co-presidents Spencer Brill and Lizzie Prindle; adult co-vice presidents of volunteers Lorraine Lerman and Sabine Geiger, and student co-vice president Andrea Carter; adult co-vice president of outreach Kathy Henley and student co-vice president Ian Allen; adult co-secretaries Cathy Goodman and Frances Santiago, and student co-secretary Kiara Saucer; and treasurer Dana Meyer. The PTSA creates a budget based on feedback from all members of our community. What do you want to see the PTSA do next year? Send your ideas to the PTSA officers at ahs_ptsa@yahoo.com.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: The PTSA-sponsored Health and Safety Committee is looking for committed members to work on projects that will address related issues at the high school. This

committee intends to address risky behaviors and personal safety issues such as drugs, alcohol, violence and sex, as well as mental health issues, in addition to establishing a communication network among parents, students, school personnel, and community members regarding these issues. Several students have volunteered and pledged their commitment to work with parents and teachers. Health and mental health counselor, Shelly Ball, has agreed to be the committee's advisor. The committee needs at least several parents and teachers to jump start the committee with these students to establish the structure, identify specific needs, set short and long-term goals, and plan specific projects. Please contact chikwan@pacbell.net.

FREE TUTORING: Free tutoring is still available in all subjects Mondays after school in the library.

GRAD NITE: The 2006 Grad Nite Parent Committee has been granted approval by the Albany Chamber of Commerce to earn 20 percent of each ticket sold for "A Taste of Albany" on June 4, when as many as 20 Solano Avenue restaurants will be offering tastes from their menus and live jazz at their sites. The money earned by the committee will go toward defraying costs of the 2006 Grad Night Party on June 16. The 2006 Grad Night Committee will earn money only on tickets sold in advance. The tickets are \$20 per person. Checks should be made out to "Albany Chamber of Commerce," should indicate the check is for "A Taste of Albany" + Grad Nite Party, and should be mailed to Christiane Khan (parent of Caleb), at 956 Ordway St., Albany 94706. The committee will mail your tickets to you. Information is available at 510-524-7004 or hao_kco@earthlink.net.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING WINNER: Congratulations to Jessica Tan, who won second place in KQED's "Coming to California Digital Storytelling Contest." There were more than 75 student entries this year, and Jessica will win a digital video camera and her story will appear on the KQED Web site and be broadcast.

FLI APPLICATIONS: Applications for The Future Leaders Institute can be picked up in front of Becca Burns' office. Applications are due on or before

5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at the FLI Final Presentation and Celebration in the Little Theater. The first team of 12 Albany High School FLI team members will present their dreams, community impact projects, personal growth and plans for legacy.

Albany Middle School

SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOKS: The school is in the process of adopting new textbooks for social studies for next year. If you would like to look at the books, they are on display at the district office on Talbot Avenue for the next several weeks. Please feel free to drop by and take a look.

PROMOTION EXERCISE: Parents of eighth graders are reminded to check with their children for an informational sheet regarding the promotion exercise, which is June 15, from 5-6 p.m. at the Albany High School gym.

FALL ENROLLMENT: If you know you will not be returning to Albany Middle School in the fall, please let the office know ASAP. This is the time of year when the school needs to make projections regarding how many sections of each class will be needed for next year. Please call school secretary Minka at 510-558-3614.

E-TREE COMMITTEE: Join the AMS etree committee and reach the almost 900 members who receive either individual postings or frequent digests of all the postings. It's easy and doesn't take much time. Cindy Solomon, the etree coordinator for the past two years, will show you how all of the Yahoo group functions work and will collaborate with you on how to make the etree more accessible to all the members. Please contact Cindy at solofreeda@gmail.com to join the etree committee and get your questions answered.

WEEDING HELP: Anyone interested in helping with weeding two or three afternoons should call Ruth Ann at 510-524-9680 before 5 p.m.

Cornell Elementary

BOWLING FOR BIKING: Bowling for Biking, in support of Albany special education kids learning to bike, takes place Sunday, June 4, at Albany Bowl. Half the proceeds from the \$10 ticket price will be donated for a scholarship to send kids in Cornell's Milestone program to the adapted bike camp at



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El Cerrito

FROM PAGE A5

office during June. Students should bring their student ID if they pick up the boards at the office.

GRAD NITE MEETING: The first meeting of the 2007 Grad Nite Committee will be Tuesday, May 30, at 7 p.m. in Room 7. Please come ready to take a committee position and present ideas for fund-raising.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION: The city of El Cerrito is recruiting a freshman or sophomore to sit on the Human Relations Commission. The commission meets the first Wednesday of each month for one hour at City Hall. The commission is responsible for three annual city events — Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, the Fourth of July table, and the Diversity Forum in the fall. Please contact Sandy Chapek at 510-215-4304 for more information.

STUDENT PLANNERS: The school is hoping to fund the cost of the student planners by selling ad space in the handbook section of the planner to local business and community groups. All ads must be ordered by June 1. Business card ads (1/3 of a page) are available for \$200, cut-out coupon ads are available for \$400 (1/3 page both sides), plus there are many other opportunities. If you can help solicit ads or are interested in purchasing an ad, please call Gail Heller, school reform coordinator, at 510-525-0234 ext. 2639.

RESEARCH PROJECT: Da Rainbow Clique has completed a year-long public health research project on the impact of discrimination and harassment on queer youth and all students at El Cerrito High School. It will share its findings on Tuesday, May 23, from 4-5:30 p.m. at El Cerrito High School in Room 69. Call the Community Project at 510-524-8252 if you have any questions.

Harding Elementary

HARDING OLYMPICS: The second annual Harding Olympics will be Wednesday, May 31, at 2:30 p.m. Children participate in bunny hop and potato sack races, obstacle courses, and other fun activities. Volunteers are needed to staff each activity. Sponsor sheets and funds raised are due Friday, May 19. All students who return their sponsor sheets on time are eligible for a special prize. There will be a drawing for a gift certificate good for four consecutive classes of gymnastics, hip-hop or capoeira at Head Over Heels in Emeryville. Volunteers are needed. Contact Tara at 510-717-4567 to help.

COMMITTEE MEETING: An English Learners Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 22. The



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Michael Morgan, Music Director

Let Us Break Bread Together:

Our Popular Multi-Chorus Season Finale with special guests Tuck & Patti!

Friday, May 19, 8pm

Paramount Theatre

Michael Morgan, conductor

Pre-Concert Talk by John Kendall Bailey & composers Ellen Hoffman & Laurence Rosenthal, 7pm



TUCK & PATTI

Michael Morgan and the orchestra are joined by the Oakland Symphony Chorus, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Mt. Eden High School Choir and the popular vocal/guitar jazz duo Tuck & Patti for inspiring performances of American popular songs, spirituals and new original works.

Features world premieres by local composers Ellen Hoffman (a tribute to the late, great jazz pianist Ed Kelly) and veteran film and television composer Laurence Rosenthal.

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meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at the school library. All parents are urged to attend.

ZIP'S ASSEMBLY: The Zip's Assembly will be Wednesday, May 24. This will be the third annual PTA-sponsored school-wide assembly. The theme is living healthy, feeling great. Previous assemblies were "The Great White Strain" and "The Recycling Man." **SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 23, at 5:30 p.m. in the Harding Library. The council will discuss school forms at Harding. A complete list will be posted outside the library one week before the meeting.

SPRING CONCERT: An evening concert will be held at the gym on Tuesday, May 23. The entire school will perform. The concert is located on the corner of 14th and Navellier.

PTA MEETING: The last PTA meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 22, in the Harding Library. Details will be provided.

GRADE 6 OPENINGS: Harding has a few openings in grade six for the school year. For more information, call the Harding office at 510-524-1413 before June 9.

Madera Elementary

CARNIVAL: Madera will hold a carnival on Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be game booths, and kids can get tattoos or fingernail painting, arts and crafts. Madera is at 8500 Madera Drive, just off the 99 near the Golf Course.

School notes may be sent to journal@ccctimes.com or 510-262-2776, or mailed to Cerrito Journal, 4301 Lila Drive, Richmond, CA 94804.

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Don't give up on your in-laws liking you yet

MY IN-LAWS, in their early 80s, do not like me very much. This is my husband's second marriage, and I am a latecomer to the family. What are the chances of coming around at some point? Or should I just accept the advanced age and respect any change? If you think change is possible at that age, what I do to help?



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

Perhaps a family relative who lives farther away would have suggestions that might relate to an area from the past that is unknown to you.

you possibly can.

Are they the type of people with whom you could have a serious conversation about this? It's doubtful, I admit, but sometimes such a technique can work wonders if all participants are willing and open about the situation.

Perhaps a family relative who lives farther away would have suggestions that might relate to an area from the past that is unknown to you. This approach could be from an angle you are not familiar with, being so new to the family.

I so hope this all works out well for you. Having a totally congenial family is so much more comfortable. You know family interaction must occur, so extra efforts to make that interaction as pleasant as possible are well worth your while.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to connieww@aol.com. Lynch, Ph.D., is the founder of *Mind Works*, a mental fitness program designed for older adults, and is the author of "Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness." For information on books and classes, call 510-466-5833.

Calendar

FROM PAGE A6

■ **Blood drives** — American Red Cross. **June 2**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 5th Floor, Tilden Room, MLK Student Union. **June 27-28**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., East Pauley Ballroom. UC Berkeley, Bancroft & Telegraph avenues, Berkeley. Details: 800-GIVE-LIFE, BeADonor.com (code: UCB). — **June 11**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Parish Hall, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. Appointments: 510-526-4811.

■ **Poll workers needed** — At polling places in Alameda County for **June 6** primary election. Poll workers must be eligible to register to vote in CA, have basic clerical skills. Stipend \$95-\$120. Training classes begin in **May**. Details: 510-272-6971.

■ **Live Oak Park Fair** — **June 10-11**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Live Oak Park, 1301 Shaftuck Ave., Berkeley. Arts and crafts showcase features 125 local artists and craftspeople. Handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, woodwork, clothing, paintings, photography, toys, art glass, more. Children's entertainment, live music by Jazzschool, food & drink. Details: 510-898-3282, liveoak-parkfair.com.

Outdoors

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** — **May 21**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Unsett Lecture: Urban Bee Gardening. Free. Registration required. 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. **June 3**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Sick Plant Clinic. Details: 510-643-2755 or botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

■ **Recreational Equipment Inc.** — Free events at 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. — **May 21**; **June 4**, 18; 10-11 a.m., Hands-on Bicycle Clinic. — **May 23**, 7 p.m., Hiking the America Discovery Trail. — **May 30**, 7 p.m., Great Hikes in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. — **June 3**, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. National Trails Day celebrated with Service Projects. — **June 6**, 7 p.m., Pack Light, Pack Right: Tips for Comfort on the Trail. — **June 27**, 7 p.m., Great Weekend Camping and Backpacking Trips in Northern California Wilderness Areas. Details: 510-527-4140 or rei.com/stores.

■ **Berkeley Path Wanderers** — **May 27**, 10 a.m., meet at Berkeley Rose Garden entrance, 1200 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. Walk with Alan Kaplan to explore North Berkeley architecture. Bring water, snack, sun protection. Moderate pace, some steep stairways. Free. Details: 510-526-7609, berkeleypaths.org.

Children/teens

■ **Habitot Children's Museum** — Events at 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley.

May 19, 11 a.m., Home Childproofing demonstration. — **June 1**, Helmet Safety Day. Toddler helmets on sale \$7; decorate helmets, toddler rodeo 5-7 p.m. Details: 510-647-1111 or habitol.org.

■ **"It's NOT a Piece of Cake"** — **May 20-21**, 2 p.m.; **May 21**, 7 p.m.; Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Play written by 5th grade class at Berkwood Hedge School, directed by local theatre artist, Dave Maier. As world's food supply begins to disappear, citizens must come together to resolve their differences & solve mystery of vanishing munchies. Tickets: \$6 at door. Details: juliamorgan.org.

■ **Lawrence Hall of Science** — Activities at One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. **May 27-Sept. 3**, "My Home Planet Earth" exhibit, hands-on activities. KAPLA buildin blocks exhibit. — **Through May 29**, CSI: Crime Scene Insects. Details: lawrencehallof-science.org, 510-642-5132.

■ **California Girls Basketball Camps** — Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley. **June 3**, Parent/Child Clinic for grades K-8, boys and girls. \$100 per parent/child pair, \$25 per additional child. — **June 4**, Jamfest Team Camp. High School, Junior Varsity, Middle School, AAU teams welcome. — **June 19-22**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Day Camp I for grades 4-12. \$325. — **June 30-July 2**, Elite Camp for grades 9-12. \$325-\$400. — **July 10-13**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Day Camp 2 for grades 4-12. \$325. — **July 24-27**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Junior Cub Camp for grades K-6. \$325. Details: 510-642-9448.

■ **Summer Theatre Intensive** — Berkeley Repertory School of Theatre, 2071 Addison St., Berkeley. Students in grades 6-12 create & perform a play. Session 1: **June 19-July 14**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (grades 6-8); cost \$1,040. Session 2: **July 17-Aug. 11**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (grades 9-12); \$1,100. Scholarships available. Details: 510-647-2978, berkeleyrep.org, school@berkeleyrep.org.

■ **Summer Drama Camps** — Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Regular Drama Camp sessions for ages 7-12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays: **June 19-30**, **July 3-14**, **July 31-Aug. 5**, **Aug. 14-25**. Learn theatre basics, help produce a video, participate in theatre production. Cost: \$575. — Advanced Camp for ages 12-16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays: **July 3-14**, **July 17-28**. Build skills for high school theatre & beyond. — Pre-Camp for ages 5-7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., **June 12-16**. Intro to camp; kids perform in costume on final day. Cost: \$220, childcare until 1 p.m. \$45. Drama Camp & Precamp at 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Advanced Camp at Prospect Sierra High School, 2060 Tapscott Ave., El Cerrito. Details: 510-524-9132, ccct.org.

■ **Kurukula** — Self-Defense, Empow-

erment, & Life Skills for Young Women, now enrolling for summer camp at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Ages 9-12: **June 26-29**, **July 17-20**, **Aug 21-24**; classes are 1-3 p.m., \$89. — Ages 13-teens: **July 9**, **16**, **23**, **30**; 10 a.m.-12 p.m., \$89. Details: kurukula.com, 510-524-9283.

■ **"Zink: The Myth, The Legend, The Zebra"** — **May 17-18**, 8 p.m., Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. A performance by Park Day School. Suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets available at the door only.

Music

■ **Jazzschool** — 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. **May 19**, 8 p.m., Beegie Adair Trio. \$15-\$18. — **May 20**, 8 p.m., Good For Cows & John Schott's Dream Kitchen. \$12. — **May 21**, 4:30 p.m., Advanced High School Jazz Workshop. \$10. — **May 27**, 8 p.m., Pyeng Threadgill. \$12. — **May 28**, 4:30 p.m., Sarah Manning Quartet. \$12-\$15. Details: 510-845-5373, jazzschool.com.

■ **Contra Costa Chorale Gala Concert** — **May 20**, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian-Universalist Church, One Lawson Road, Kensington. "Forty-Fortissimo" 40th anniversary concert features opera excerpts from Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi, Joplin, more. Champagne reception follows. Cost: \$15-\$17.50, children free. Details: 510-527-2026.

■ **Jazz on 4th Street Festival** — **May 21**, 12:5 p.m., 4th Street between Hearst & Virginia avenues, Berkeley. Free performances by Bill Bell Quartet, Big Belly Blues Band, John Santos Quintet, Berkeley High Jazz Orchestra & Combos. Merchants selling their wares & food. Benefit for Berkeley High School performing arts. Details: 510-526-6294.

■ **San Francisco Chamber Orchestra & Volti** — "Our Voices Rise in Song Together" concert, **May 21**, 4 p.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Features works of Britten, Imbrie, Winges. Tickets: \$8-\$20; 415-771-3352, volti.org.

■ **Organ Music at St. John's** — **May 21**, 4 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2077 College Ave., Berkeley. Roberta Gary plays Bach. Reception follows. Donation: \$15. Details: 510-845-6830.

■ **Spring Celebration Concert** — **May 25**, 7 p.m., First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way. Features composer John Adams, Crowden School students. Free. Details: 510-559-6910, crowden.org, jstrauss@crowden.org.

■ **Trillium harp ensemble** — **May 27**, 3 p.m., A Cheerful Noisy, 1228 Solano Ave., Albany. Three harps in concert. Maureen Brennan, Patrice

Haan, Diana Rowan play three harps in eclectic mix of classical, folk, jazz, world music. Details: 510-524-0411, 877-524-0411.

■ **Baroque Pearls** — **May 27**, 8 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany. Flauti Diversi presents a program of chamber music. Tickets: \$18 general, \$15 SFEMS members/seniors/students. Reservations and details: 510-527-9840.

■ **Chamber Music Sundaes** — **May 28**, 3:15 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. San Francisco Symphony musicians, friends play works of Rokeach, Mozart, Shostakovich. Coming up: **June 11**, works of Strauss, Faure; Scottish fiddle duos. Cost: \$9-\$21. Details: 415-584-5946, chambermusic-sundaes.org.

■ **Mini Concert Series** — 8 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. **June 2**, Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble plays Dufay, Obrecht, Isaac, Taeggio, Gabrieli, more. — **June 30**, Bay Area Classical Harmonies performs Greek & Russian vocal music. Cost: \$15, \$50 for six concerts, \$2 children under 16. Details: 510-526-9146.

■ **Berkeley World Music Fair** — **June 3-4**, 12-9 p.m., Telegraph Avenue, outdoors and in cafes, Berkeley. Performers include West African Highlife Band, Orquestra d' Soul, Stephen Kent, Quijeremá, Dijaly Kunda Kouyate, Parlor Tango, Rafael Manriquez, Vukani Mawethu, Melanie O'Reilly, The Snyrna Time Machine, Kaila Flexer, Remencier, more. — **June 3**, 2 p.m., Caribbean Cove, 2556 Telegraph Ave., music by Vibe Art. Details: telegraphberkeley.com.

■ **June at Jazzschool** — 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. **June 3**, 8 p.m., Karen Blixt. \$15. — **June 4**, 4:30 p.m., Marc Cary's Focus Trio. \$12. — **June 10**, 8 p.m., Ed Saindon & Dick Whittington. \$20. — **June 11**, 4:30 p.m., Tanaora. \$12-\$15. — **June 17**, 8 p.m., Vocal Sauce. \$12. Details: 510-845-5373, jazzschool.com.

■ **"An Evening of Harp Music"** — **June 3**, 8 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 2005 North Berryman St., Berkeley. Proceeds benefit Julie and Paul Rogers Memorial Harp Scholarship Fund. \$7-\$15. Tickets/details: 510-548-3326.

■ **"New Orleans Music in Exile"** — **June 8**, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Berkeley Public Library, Community Room, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. Screening of Robert Mugge's film on impact of Katrina on musicians, featuring Dr. John, Irma Thomas, Marcia Ball, Kermit Ruffins, ReBirth Brass Band, more. Free. Details: berkeleypubliclibrary.org, 510-981-6100.

See CALENDAR, Page A10



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THE DINING GUIDE

Featured Menu



Montclair Bistro and Garden Room

Appetizers/Small Plates

Panko crusted Dungeness crab cakes, grapefruit remoulade, grapefruit.....	\$12
Brown butter sweetbreads, sautéed pears, caramelized onions.....	\$10
Seared Ahi, red chili vinaigrette, wasabi, won ton, petit greens, chive oil.....	\$13
Char grilled asparagus, lemon dressing, balsamic reduction.....	\$9
Imported escargot Bourguignon en croute.....	\$10

Salads/Soups

Char grilled spinach salad, endive, almonds, toasts, lemon dressing.....	\$8
Bistro Caesar, roasted croutons, parmesan Reggiano, anchovies.....	\$9
Spring greens, cucumber, frisée, tangerine segments, endive, sunflower kernels, organic honey-Dijon vinaigrette.....	\$9
Italian wedding soup, miniature meatballs, pastini, beef broth.....	\$10
Cherry stone clam and fennel bisque, pan roasted clams, mache.....	\$10

Entrees/Small Plates

Chicken Portuguese, imported olives, clams, roasted tomatoes, greens, whipped potatoes.....	\$17	Small plate.....	\$10
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Entrees/Small Plates Continued ~

Grilled teriyaki eggplant steak, grilled tomato, tomato vinaigrette, asparagus, Jasmine rice.....	\$14	Small plate.....	\$8
Bistro Black Angus New York steak, truffled bordelaise, colbert butter, spinach, Anna potatoes.....	\$25	Small plate.....	\$15
Sautéed Eastern pike, beurre noir, spinach, whipped potatoes.....	\$22	Small plate.....	\$13
Black Angus short rib, Cabernet pan jus, herbed Peruvian lima beans.....	\$22		
Tender braised lamb shank, Anna potatoes, greens, tarragon pan sauce.....	\$18		
Blackened striped bass, grilled asparagus, Jasmine rice seasonal California grape and tomato vinaigrette.....	\$23	Small plate.....	\$14

Sides

Sautéed Marsala spinach 4. Brown butter Brussels sprouts.....	\$5
Anna potatoes.....	\$4

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* An 18% gratuity will be automatically added to parties of 6 or larger.



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Montclair Bistro

6118 Medan Place, Montclair Village, (510) 482-8282

Chef Henry Vortriede's philosophy of his restaurant, Montclair Bistro, is Metrix Cuisine, which he finds is "a synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and the surroundings." The Bistro's cuisine is Creative California with a French Flare and offers gourmet delicacies for even the most discriminating palate. The dining experience is enhanced with a full bar and more than 150 wines and Vintage Ports. Montclair Bistro offers lunch, dinner, Happy Hour and Sunday Brunch. Please visit our ad for hours of operation. Reservations are recommended but not required. Visit www.montclairbistro.com.

Sophia Cafe

1247 Solano Ave., Albany (510) 526-8663

Sophia Cafe is a tiny haven for Mideast food. Owner Moti Dagan makes entrees and baked goods with a personal touch. For dinner enjoy schnitzel, moussake (sliced eggplant dish with ground beef) or the cous cous plate. Finish with a delightful dessert made in-house. For a limited time, enjoy early bird specials for only \$9.95. Offer valid only with mention of ad from 5-9pm. Take out and catering menus available upon request. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

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La Pinata 3 has been indulging the Bay Area since 1978 with authentic, delicious Mexican cuisine. In 2005, La Pinata 3 introduced their Taco Bar, offering authentic Mexican tacos prepared the old-fashioned way, with traditional ingredients. In addition to Pinata 3's impressive menu, including Albondigas (meat ball soup), traditional Mexican breakfasts, and the famous Whole Red Snapper, delectable homemade pastries (desserts) and after dinner drinks are not to be missed. Perhaps most impressive about La Pinata 3 is the popular Tequila Bar. Serving the largest variety of 100% Agave tequilas in Alameda, and perhaps the entire East Bay, the tequila bar at La Pinata 3 is guaranteed to turn you in to a return guest. La Pinata 3 is open daily from 7am to 3am, and Happy Hour is from 4-5pm M-F. Weekend Specials and a \$9.95 Sunday Brunch are also available. www.lapinata.com. (Look for La Pinata #6 opening mid-August in Concord with 2 tequila bars!)

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Offering unpretentious, contemporary American Bistro cuisine amidst a charming and sophisticated atmosphere just like cafés in Paris, Z Café & Bar changes its menus seasonally to capture flavors at their peak. Dining al fresco also can be enjoyed on our patio. Our wine focus is California, but we offer a selection featuring many regional and international favorites. Wine tasting flights are available daily. Our house mixologist stirs up specialty martinis, flavored mojitos, and exciting fruity house cocktails that delight taste buds in the mood for exotic flavors. Breakfast Mon.-Fri. 7-10:30 a.m. Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner Wed.-Sat. 5 p.m.-close. Brunch Sun. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Happy Hour Wed.-Sat. 4-7 p.m. www.zcafeandbar.com

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THE DINING GUIDE

Featured Menu

Montclair Bistro and Garden Room

Appetizers/Small Plates

Panko crusted Dungeness crab cakes, grapefruit remoulade, grapefruit.....	\$12
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Entrees/Small Plates

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Entrees/Small Plates Continued ~

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Anna potatoes.....	\$4

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Family-owned El Caballo Mexican Restaurant has had a long-standing reputation for preparing delicious traditional dishes from scratch using nothing but the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. El Caballo is famous for their Especialidades De Mariscos (seafood specialties) including Paella Estilo Catalina, Cioppino Siete Madres, Enchiladas Cabo San Lucas, and many others. In addition to delicious seafood entrees, El Caballo offers an impressive menu of Mexican favorites to please every palate. The family and staff at El Caballo have made it their utmost priority to offer you, their guests, a pleasant and relaxing dining experience. You are invited to enjoy authentic Mexican dining with a view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon.

ZZA's Trattoria

552 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA, (510) 839-9124
Billed as a "Simple Italian Restaurant" ZZA's may be modest but serves spectacularly tasty fare and is a fun, family-friendly restaurant. Be sure and order the whole Dungeness crab roasted in a brick oven, seasoned with cracked pepper, butter, fresh herbs and served over house-made trenette pasta for only \$32. ZZA's is affordable, friendly and comfortable and offers a mix of salads, pastas, calzones, and thin-crust individual pizzas; and much of the pasta is made by hand. They're also known for the huge ZZA's sign in back that flashes dancing lights - red and white, framed in green neon. It comes on whenever they feel like it - when somebody has a birthday, when somebody drops a dish and breaks it. The tradition is, one of the servers calls, "Lights, please," and the customers cheer and they clap. Your kids will love it, and you won't have to sacrifice your own tastes to indulge them. House specialties include Maiale, a Niman Ranch spice coated Porterhouse pork chop with apple beurre blanc mashed potatoes and snap peas or the Pesce del Giorno A.Q. Lunch is served Tuesday through Sunday from 11 to 3pm; Dinner is Sunday through Thursday from 5 to 10pm and Friday and Saturdays from 5 to 11pm.

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A7

■ **ReNew Orleans Jazz Festival** — June 9-11, 8 p.m., Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. June 9, reading room, Tammy Hall Quartet with Helena Jack. 7:15 p.m., preshow outdoor music by Clint Baker's Brass Band. — June 10, reading room, Charles Hamilton Jazz Ensemble. — June 11, open dance floor and reading room concert seating, Orquesta La Moderna Tradición. Free. Details: 510-981-6100, berkeleypubliclibrary.org.

■ **Kensington Symphony Concert** — June 10, 8 p.m., Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Features music of Schumann, Brahms. Suggested donation \$10-\$15. Children free. Details: 510-524-9912.

■ **Philharmonia Chamber Players** — June 10, 10:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Viva Vivaldi: Concerti by Candeligh featuring David Taylor, lute; Hanneke van Proosdij, recorder; Tanya Tomkins, cello. Tickets \$20-\$40; 510-642-9988, bfc.berkeley.edu. Discounts given to UC Berkeley affiliates, students, seniors and Berkeley Festival subscription purchasers.

■ **WomenSing Spring concert** — June 18, 4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Features works of Larsen, Szymkows, Thompson, Mechem, Shaker music; bluesy arrangement of "Shenandoah" with jazz combo; spirituals. Tickets: \$10-\$20, 925-974-9169. Details: womensing.org, info@womensing.org.

Religion

■ **Kol Hadash** — Events at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Music led by Cantorial Soloist Bon Singer. May 19, 7:30 p.m., Humanistic Judaism Shabbat & Sam Zabb-Parney's Bar Mitzvah Celebration. Bring nonperishable food for needy. Free.

■ **Pacific School of Religion** — Commencement ceremonies, May 21, 3:30 p.m., First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland. Reception follows. Details: 510-849-8229.

■ **Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center** — Events at 1414 Walnut St. May 21: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 50+ Singles' Books, Discussions & Fellowship Group. Free. — May 24, 7:30 p.m., Dr. Brian Linde talks on "In Harms Way: Toxic Treatments." \$5. — May 24, 7:30 p.m., author Daniel C. Matt discusses "The Zohar." \$10-\$20. — May 25, 7:30 p.m., An Evening with anti-apartheid activist Father Michael Hensley Lapsley. \$10-\$20. — Through May 25, Thursdays 10:30-11:45 a.m., My Toddler and Me Discovery Group. \$12/session. — June 6, 7 p.m., The Muse and the BRJCC: A Celebration of Original Works Part II. Readings by women's writing groups. Refreshments. Free. — June 22, 7:30 p.m., Aquarian Minyan Author Series: Jewish Writers in the Bay Area. Author Estelle Frankel speaks on book "Sacred Therapy: Jewish Spiritual Teachings on Emotional Healing and Inner Wholeness." Details: brjcc.org, 510-848-0237 x132.

■ **Chabad of the East Bay** — June 2, 11 a.m., 2643 College Ave., Berkeley. Celebrate Shavuot with Ice Cream Party, hear Ten Commandments, relive Mt. Sinai experience. Details/RSVP: 510-540-5824.

Health

■ **Free Bone Density Testing** — May 22, 11:00 a.m.-1 p.m., Elephant Pharmacy, 1607 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Testing to raise awareness about osteoporosis & help people determine their risk. Details: elephantpharmacy.com.

■ **Breathexperience™** — Seminars 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Middendorf Institute for Breathexperience™, 830 Bancroft Way, #104, Berkeley. \$80. May 27, Meditation. — May 28, Hard Work.



ALTA BATES SUMMIT MEDICAL CENTER

"I'VE GOT THE BLUES" by Gerald Allen, 13, is part of the exhibit "Healing Waters," which runs through July 5, at the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave. The exhibit also includes river paintings by Judi Miller, ocean series glass sculpture by Carol Holmes, and "Katrina's Children" art and poetry from River of Words. A reception is set for 4 to 6 p.m. May 21.

Find your ease whatever your physical activity. Details: 510-981-1710, mibe@breathexperience.com.

■ **Fibromyalgia Support and Education Group** — June 20, 12-2 p.m., Herick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, Maffly Auditorium. Open forum rap session. Free. Please refrain from using fragrances. Details: 510-644-3273.

Exhibits

■ **"Berkeley Treasures Series 1: — Karl Kasten, Ariel, Lewis Suzuki,"** through May 20, Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 12-5 p.m. Free, donations appreciated.

■ **"Healing Waters"** — Through July 5, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. River paintings by Judi Miller, ocean series glass sculpture by Carol Holmes, "Katrina's Children" art and poetry from River of Words. May 21, 4-6 p.m., reception. Details: 510-204-1667.

■ **UC Berkeley Art Museum** — Through July 16, "Now-Time Venezuela Part 2." — Through May 21, "The Flaming Word of Truth," "Dreaming California." — May 24-Oct. 22, "Centers of Artistry: Indian Paintings." — Through May 28, "Now-Time Venezuela, Part 1." — Through Dec. 3, "Bancroft Library Centennial Exhibition." — Through June 24, 2007, "A Measure of Time," "Selections from the Collection." 2625 Durant Ave. #2250, Berkeley. Details: bampfa.berkeley.edu or 510-642-0608.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center** — 3105 Shattuck Ave. Through May 28, cafe lobby, work of father & daughter duo O'Brian Thiele & Rhea Thiele-Seidenberg. Theater, "The Art of Protest," photographs by Laura DuBois, Victor Vuyas, Greg Jalbert. Details: lapena.org or 510-849-2569.

■ **CSI: Crime Scene Insects** — Through May 29, Lawrence Hall of Science, One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Exhibit explores forensic entomology through field & lab equipment, model crime scenes, live insects, interactive displays. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., tours by M. Lee Goff, Ph.D. Details: 510-642-5132 or lawrencehall@science.org.

■ **Schurman-Scriptum Gallery** — Through May 31, 1659 San Pablo

Ave., Berkeley. "Kawase Hasui & His Era: Masters of the Japanese Woodblock Print." Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 12-6 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m. Free. Details: Elise 510-526-1236 or elise-scriptum@yahoo.com.

■ **Badé Museum** — Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holbrook Building, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Through June 29, "Behold: Nude Photographic Work by Dana Davis." Details: Dawn 510-849-8239. — Through January 2007, "Making Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Family Religion in Ancient Israel." Details: 510-849-8201.

■ **Berkeley Art Center** — June 4-July 15, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. Exhibit by 2005 Members' Showcase winners Janine Brown and Lucy Traber. June 4, 2-4 p.m., opening reception. Details: 510-644-6893, berkeleyartcenter.org.

■ **"Eclectix" Gallery** — Through July 4, 7523 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. Group Show of Mixed Media Works. Artists include: Chris Fortin, Patricia Mitchell, Karla Burk, William Duntton, Susan Billings, Chuck Mitchell. Free. Details: 510-364-7216.

■ **Judah L. Magnes Museum** — June 5-Sept. 21, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. "My America: Art from the Jewish Museum Collection, 1900-1955." June 4, 2 p.m., opening. Elizabeth Rosner talks, signs book "Blue Nude." \$6-\$8. Details: magnes.org or 510-549-6950.

■ **Art Making** — June 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., mouth of Schoolhouse Creek, Eastshore State Park, Berkeley. Join Friends of Five Creeks, environmental artist Zach Pine to make ephemeral art using found materials. Photographs of works will be exhibited as part of "Art to Action on Berkeley Creeks," a three-part project of art-making at headwaters, middle reaches, and creek mouth. Free. Registration: 510-708-5528, zpine@aol.com. Details: homepage.mac.com/zpine/aa2006/aa2006.html.

■ **Addison Street Windows Gallery**

— Through June 19, 2018 Addison St., Berkeley. "Four Faces of the Figure" features works of Carol Aust, Biliana Strenska, Laura Van Duren, Seth Wachtel. Details: 510-981-7546.

■ **"My Sister, My Sister," Photography Exhibition** — Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center lobby, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. Photographic portraits by Meredith Stout and poetry by Zelma Brown highlight the faces, stories of women and children living in poverty. Free. Details: brjcc.org.

Film/dance/stage

■ **Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center** — May 19, 7:30 p.m. foxtrox lesson, 8:30 p.m. Don Neely's Royal Society Five. \$16. — May 20, 8 p.m. Cajun dance lesson, 9 p.m. Tom Rigney and Flambeau. \$11-\$13. — May 21, 3 p.m., kids' show with Asheba. \$4-\$6. 7 p.m., Flamenco Open Stage with Stephanie Niera. \$10. — May 23, 8 p.m. Cajun dance lesson, 8:30 p.m. Swamp Coolers. \$9. — May 24, 7:30 p.m. dance lesson, 8 p.m. Balkan folkdance. \$7. — May 25, 7:30 p.m. drum workshop, 9 p.m. Raquy and the Caverns. \$10-\$20. — May 26, 9:30 p.m., Soul Majestic. \$11-\$13. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Details: 510-525-5054.

■ **Conscientious Projector series** — May 19, 7 p.m., Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists' Hall, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. "The Take" by Naomi Klein features democratic, collective workplaces in Argentina. Also: documentary, on Patricia Isaacs's prosecution of her torturers. Discussion follows. \$10 donation. Details: 510-528-5403, 510-841-4824.

■ **The Shop 3: Bringing Back the Boogie!** — May 19, 8 p.m.; May 20, 7:30 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Culture Shock Oakland gives workshop dance showcase. Tickets: \$12-\$20; shockfamily.org. Details: juliamorgan.org.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center** — May 19, 8 p.m., Jacqueline Castro Ravelo, Rafael Manriquez. \$10-\$12. — May 20, 7 p.m., Suicide Kings & Ice Lyle. 9:30 p.m., Dream, El Ele, Company of Prophets, Panama. \$10-\$15. — May 21; 3:30 p.m., Domingo de Rumba. — May 21, 7:30 p.m., Creative Aging Benefit Concert. \$12. — May 24, 7 p.m., Kavenam Experience. \$10. — May 25, FUSION fund-raiser. \$10-\$15. — May 26, 8:30 p.m., Bolokada Conde & Les Percussion Malinke. \$15-\$20. — May 27, 8 p.m., Pa to the Bay's evening of hip-hop, reggae, dancehall. \$7-\$10. — May 28, 5 p.m., Haitian Flag Day Celebration. \$15. — May 31, 7 p.m., Arab Women Film Series features "Souha Surviving Hell." \$5-\$10. — June 2, 8 p.m., Trova sin Traba. \$10-\$12. — June 3, 8 p.m., Los Mapaches. \$5-\$10. — June 3-4, 12:30-5 p.m., Superfest International Disability Film Festival. \$5-\$20. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Details: lapena.org or 510-849-2568.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theatre** — "Animal Crackers," through May 20, 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays; 9:51 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. New version of 1928 Marx Brothers hit. Tickets: \$20. Details: cccot.org or 510-524-9132.

■ **Subterranean Shakespeare** — "Richard III," through May 20, Thursday-Saturday 8 p.m. (no show May 11); Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. William Shakespeare's play deals with themes of political corruption & dissimulation. Tickets: \$12-\$17. Reservations 510-276-3871.

■ **An Evening of Playback Theatre** — May 20, 8 p.m., Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Personal stories shared by audience members then instantly transformed by the ensemble into improvised theatre pieces. Admission: \$12-\$18. Reservations: 510-595-5500 x25, livin-

gartscenter.org.

■ **Page to Stage: Free Talkback with Rita Moreno** — May 22, 7 p.m., Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Local theatre lovers in conversation with Rita Moreno. Free. Details: 510-647-2949, berkeleyrep.org.

■ **Berkeley Ballet Theater, Children's Division and Youth Company** — Seasons - Annual Spring Showcase, May 26-27, 7 p.m.; May 27-28, 2 p.m.; Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Eclectic spring showcase of work. Tickets: \$19; 510-843-4689. Details: juliamorgan.org.

■ **Impact Theatre** — "Money & Run Episode 4: Go Straight, No Chaser," through May 27, Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m., La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. Tickets: \$10-\$15; 510-464-4468. Details: impacttheatre.com.

■ **Berkeley Ballet Theater, Adult Division** — Collage - Annual Spring Showcase, May 28, 6 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Beginning and advanced adult students perform to choreography by faculty members. Tickets: \$14; 510-843-4689. Details: juliamorgan.org.

■ **Tell It On Tuesday** — May 30, 7:30 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 7 p.m., Oh Yea's play ragtime blues and jazz. Members of The Marsh's Performance Initiative tell stories. Tickets: \$8-\$12. Details: juliamorgan.org.

■ **Film and Interactive Discussion Series** — 7-10 p.m., Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. May 31: "Pride and Prejudice." June 7 & 21: TBA. \$4-\$15. Details: brjcc.org, 510-848-0237 x132.

■ **Stephanie Weisman's "Aphrodisia"** — May 31 (previews); June 1, 3, 4, 7, 10; Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 7:30 p.m., Sunday 4 p.m.; The Marsh Berkeley, Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. Play is study on embracing intimate & sometimes painful love & life. Tickets: May 10-11: \$10-\$20 sliding scale; \$25 reserved seating; other dates: \$20-\$35 sliding scale; \$50 reserved seating. Tickets: 800-838-3006, themarsh.org.

■ **Lost Tales: Glimpses from 1000 Ramayanas** — June 10, 4 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. NATYA presents collaboration of Indian classical dance traditions of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, set to eclectic musical backdrop of Carnatic, jazz, world rhythms, punctuated by spoken word poetry. Tickets: \$12-\$18. Details: natya.info, 510-338-4538, reservations@natya.info.

■ **"The Glass Menagerie"** — Through June 18; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays 8 p.m.; Wednesdays & Sundays 7 p.m.; Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays 2 p.m.; Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Features Rita Moreno in Tennessee Williams' classic play. Tickets: \$30-\$59; 510-647-2949, 888-4-BRT-Tix or berkeleyrep.org.

■ **"The Miser"** — Through June 25, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m.; Wednesdays & Sundays 7 p.m.; Thursdays & Sundays 2 p.m. New production of Moliere's comedy. Tickets: \$30-\$59. Tickets: 510-647-2949, 888-4-BRT-Tix. Details: berkeleyrep.org.

Learning

■ **Pacific Center for the Photographic Arts** — Portfolio Review class, May 19, 7-9:30 p.m., Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Cost: \$35-\$45. Details: 510-428-9169, info@pcpaphoto.org.

■ **RabbitEARS** — 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. May 21, 2-4 p.m., Meet

the Guinea Pig, learn to pigs as pets, meet school May 28, 2-4 p.m., The meet adoptable rats & feeding, habitat, grooming \$15 donation. Details: fixpets@yahoo.com.

■ **Argentine Tango Berkeley** — May 22: 7:30-9 p.m., Center, Claremont Hotel, Rd., Berkeley. Instructors: Meredith, David, Stella. \$15/class; series of 6 classes: Stella 510-656-5566, info@argentinatango.org, kathy.yong@tango.com.

■ **Will the U.S. Boom Again?** — May 26, 7 p.m., Berkeley Humanist Universalists' Hall, St., Berkeley. Humanist Jeanette Hassberg. All dress current circa. Details: follows. \$10 donation. 528-5403.

■ **Berkeley City College** — summer session runs June 2020 Milvia St., Berkeley. art, business, computer, fish, reading, math, more phone, online, in person. \$10. \$26 per unit. Details: 2800, peralta.edu.

■ **Vista Community College** — 5-July 15, 8-10 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Berkeley Annex, 2075 Alston Way. "Fall in Love with Shakespeare Again." Combine academic viewing live performance. California Shakespeare Festival. Details: 510-981-2913, vista-peralta.edu.

■ **Environmental Education** — June 7-14, days 6:30-9:30 p.m. — Extension class presents issues from an ethical perspective: climate change, culture, genetic engineering, endangered species, and consumerism. mon.unex.berkeley.edu/cet2006.

■ **Jazz & Popular Music** — Through July 24, Mondays, Tuesdays, Berkeley Marin Ave., Albany. Canteen of jazz, blues, pop, Motown, acappella for adults interested in singing and performance. 10 meetings plus Cost: \$177-\$187. Register: 524-9283, albayia.org.

■ **Burn Support Group** — Tuesdays monthly, 7:30-9 p.m., Berkeley Senior Center, Berkeley. Aisa Ann Ruston's support group for and their families. Details: 7223.

■ **Ongoing Exhibits**

■ **ACCI Gallery** — Art Cooperative, Inc., 1622 Berkeley, is looking for high-quality, contemporary crafts. Details: accigallery.com/Join-Sale.

■ **Film Shows**

■ **Berkeley Circle Dance** — days 8-10 p.m., Farnhill Hall, 1970 Chestnut St., El Cerrito. Fridays at Hillside Quilting, El Cerrito. Smiles (Greece, Israel, Scotland) done in a circle. No experience needed. Approx. \$5 donation appreciated. 528-4253 or circleoakland.org.

See CALENDAR

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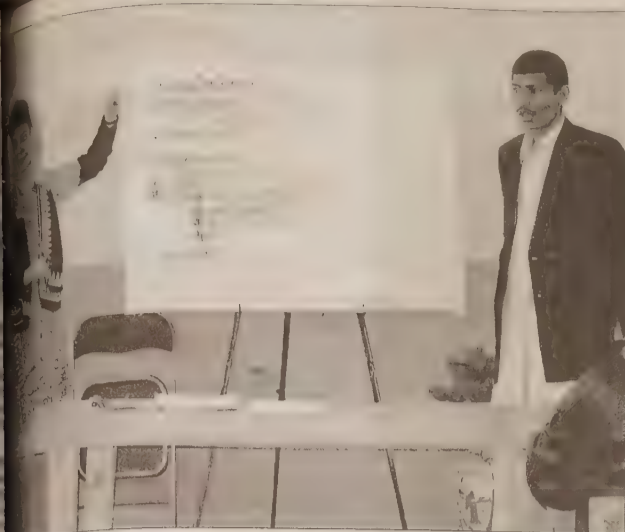
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ELSIE DE LAERE reviews with teachers how lesson plans are put together in the United States. The night is a translator, paid by donated U.S. funds.

Teachers

FROM PAGE A1

There has been significant change in Afghanistan. "The change," she says, "is that I see the faces of young women, older women in jobs now, in banks, the airline in the countryside, I

see little girls walking an hour to get to school. It's very, very different."

De Laere is going back again, for three weeks in June. What motivates her? "I see progress, and people want us there," she says. "They are pleading with us to go twice a year now. They need all the help they can get."

And beyond this year? She describes the Afghan Friends Network's five-year plan. To

other Marin School teachers, she's talking up future trips, and she'll make a presentation to the Albany Rotary on Tuesday.

The teachers and Rotarians are about to discover that De Laere is on a mission, and she's highly persuasive about it.

Reach Bob Menzimer at megabob@pacbell.net

FROM PAGE A1

...in turn, planted the starting her passion with 1975 she founded the Roses Group, a loose of dedicated enthu- has members nation- will as Australia. She to put out the Old a newsletter is- a year.

indicator — teaching at Elementary School, the and her children Wilkins was and is spreading the word passion.

orts truly blossomed went she founded, the celebration of Old Roses, 22nd year. This year's takes place Sunday Community Center, Moser Lane.

has long since and thrives like a well- considered the out- se event of the year," said. "Where else can see all the classes of the spot?"

only see the hundreds blooms in attrac- tions, but smell ly beautiful," Wilkins whole center smells an you go through the wonderful, wonderful as you."

event publicity states, touch and smell the

not dog sales were barbecue at the cen- years ago so the don't compete with the roses.

ou boasts 100 feet of all classes of roses, rose-derived products and jelly, honey from rose, potpourri, rose oil, and rose-themed literature.

ing, rosy is for sale ans said.

everything comes up e Iris, lilies, species perennials, shrubs e starts also are rep- d available for sale. aration draws enthu- a wide area. "We've from Utah, Oregon, California, (far) North- mas" Wilkins said.

any more accustomed day roses might be to learn that old roses require high main- are suited to a vari-



KRISTINA OSBORN, left, and Miriam Wilkins of the Heritage Roses Group look over some parade roses Tuesday in Wilkins' garden in El Cerrito. Wilkins is founder of the Celebration of Old Roses, set this year for Sunday.

IF YOU GO

The annual Celebration of Old Roses takes place from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane at Ashbury Avenue. The event features displays of hundreds of heritage roses and rose-related items and plants for sale. Raffle, food and refreshments. Admission is free. For details, call Kristina Osborn, 510-527-3815.

ety of climates. That's part of the attraction.

The Bay Area is perfectly

suited for heritage roses, Wilkins said, adding, "There isn't any rose you can't grow here."

And even though Wilkins is now 87 and can no longer garden, her back yard is proof of the success of her decision to order that catalog so many years ago.

"They are so beautiful," she said. "I was just thinking today that every time I went outdoors I could smell that fragrance. It's so wonderful."

Reach Chris Treadway at 510-262-2784 or ctreadway@cctimes.com.

Marijuana

FROM PAGE A1

Medical marijuana is legal under Prop. 215, the "Compassionate Use Act," which California voters approved in 1996. However, federal law classifies marijuana as an illegal drug with no medical use.

In response to inquiries for opening a medical marijuana facility, the El Cerrito council adopted moratoriums, the third of which is set to expire on July 19. State law prohibits the city from putting off the issue any longer.

Other cities are also grappling with the issue.

In early May, San Pablo extended its cannabis club moratorium for an additional year. Hercules banned medical mari-

juana facilities the same month. Dublin is headed in that direction.

Albany is considering adopting an ordinance that would allow one dispensary in that city. The council, which recently approved an additional one-year moratorium, will likely place the issue before voters in November for an advisory vote, Albany City Attorney Robert Zweben said.

In a report, Coleson advised the El Cerrito council not to ban dispensaries outright because it may invite lawsuits from patients or a patient-advocacy group.

That's what happened in Concord, where Americans for Safe Access sued the city after it banned dispensaries last year. The group dropped the suit this month.

On the other hand, if El Cerrito let the moratorium expire without any regulations, dispen-

saries could operate with few rules in many areas of the city, according to Coleson's report.

The council voted unanimously to approve Coleson's ordinance. "I think this is the smart way to go," Councilman Bill Jones said.

The ordinance would require dispensaries to operate between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and would prohibit cultivation or consumption on site.

According to the proposed zoning changes to be considered by the Planning Commission, medical marijuana dispensaries will not operate within 1,200 feet of each other; within 350 feet of any residential districts; within 500 feet of a school, or a religious or community facility; or within 300 feet of any park.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail alopez1@cc-

Signatures

FROM PAGE A1

A representative of Caruso Affiliated said this week the developer is planning to increase the amount of open space in the housing and retail project to about 18 acres and push back the development to 300 feet from the water. It originally was proposed to be 200 feet.

The retail portion of the development would see a decrease in the square footage, from about 450,000 square feet to no more than 420,000 square feet. The number of apartments also has been reduced, from about 180 to between 135 and 150.

In contrast to the initiative effort, he said, the changes were made in response to community input.

"While they put this up as some sort of community planning process, it's really anything but," said Matt Middlebrook, an executive with Caruso Affiliated.

"It limits the choices that Albany residents will have in terms of the potential future for the waterfront."

"It imposes a million and a half dollar unfunded mandate on the city that will take vital city dollars away from services, like police, fire and parks. And it precludes most of the community from even participating in the planning process."

Initiative backers counter that few people they encountered during the signature-gathering process supported the Caruso development.

"I think I ran into three people who were for a mall," said Brian Parker, a member of Citizens for the Albany Shoreline. "I knocked on a lot of doors."

Parker also said he believed the Caruso project would require a massive parking structure. Middlebrook said it would encompass five levels and 3,000 parking spaces.

The city is working on its own planning process for the water-

front, which it has asked the landowner, Magna Entertainment Corp., to pay for. That process, estimated to cost about \$1 million, is intended to develop several visions for the area. Magna has not agreed to pay for the city process.

On Tuesday at the city clerk's office, supporters of the initiative effort submitted petitions in a fluorescent-green box bearing the name of the Albany shoreline group and the phrase "Save Our Shoreline."

Over the past two months, volunteers gathered signatures door-to-door and at Safeway on Solano Avenue.

Assuming the county certifies the signatures, the council would be required by law to place it on the November ballot, or it could adopt the initiative outright.

"If nothing else," East Shore parks' Cheasty said, "the initiative has served to have the city focus on this and have the understanding that people want the waterfront protected."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail alopez1@cc-times.com.

Calendar

FROM PAGE A10

■ **Berkeley Folk Dancers** — 7:45-9:45 p.m., Live Oak Park Clubhouse, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Learn International Folk dancing. Beginners on Friday nights, other levels every week-night. Line & partner dances include Scandinavian, Latin American, Balkan, Scottish, American, waltzes, polkas, swing, etc. No partners needed. Details: \$40 for 13 week session (\$5 a night, or students \$25/session). Details: 510-655-

9332 or berkeleyfolk dancers.com.

■ **Shahrazad Dance Company** — Rehearsals 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays in Berkeley. Specializing in contemporary Persian and Fusion dance. Dancers needed to perform in local events and (occasionally) Los Angeles. Experience in modern dance performance necessary; experience in Ballet, Flamenco, Indian dance helpful. Audition info: 510-215-2166.

■ **St. Joseph the Worker Church** — 1st Fridays monthly, 7:30 p.m. at 1640 Addison St., Berkeley. "First Fridays," programs with a social conscience. Free. Details: 510-482-1062.

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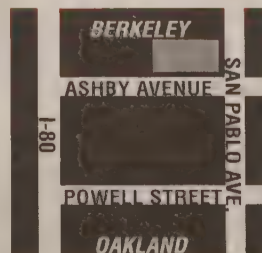
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Real Estate

HOMES • RENTALS • COMMERCIAL • MORTGAGES

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmont



KIM MARTINEZ

RETREAT: This contemporary home lies nestled in its own park in the Kensington hills.

THE GRUBB CO

The contemporary masterpiece at 444 Yale Ave. in Kensington exudes elegance, quality and serenity. This 4,000-plus square-foot home with a grand indoor pool rises up from a lush private hillside in an exclusive neighborhood.

The home is perched on a level and gently downsloped lot on almost one acre of land. It has a private drive with graciously landscaped grounds.

Dramatically designed by Architect Frank Krueger in 1965, this

home offers clean lines, vaulted ceilings, an open versatile floor plan and expansive views from almost every room.

Krueger's design combines the versatility and size of a four-bedroom, four-and-one-half-bath home with unsurpassed elegance, functionality and privacy.

He situated his creation on a secluded lot at the end of a hillside and framed it with the surrounding redwood and eucalyptus trees.

See HOME, Page B2

Real Estate Spotlight:

Berkeley hills home offers elegance, breathtaking views



THE UNIQUE BERKELEY HILLS HOME at 768 San Luis Rd. was built in 1928. It has been tastefully modified over the years to reflect both Craftsman and Asian influence. Beautiful wood details include wainscoting and hardwood floors. Leaded glass windows and elegant lighting brighten the home with its fantastic view of the bay and Golden Gate Bridge. The living room features cathedral ceilings; French doors here lead to the patio with its hot tub and cold plunge. The remodeled kitchen has granite counters and custom wood cabinets. The large family room's French doors also open out to the patio. The master bedroom has its original Italian tile. The home has four fireplaces. The garage has two additional rooms that could be used as an office or a gym. The magnificent grounds encompass over one-third acre and have gardens, patios, decks and a chef's grill in a very private setting.

Price: \$2,977,000

Listing agents: Kim and Barbara Marienthal, Coldwell Banker, 510-981-3036 or 510-981-3020



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Alameda
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Victorian tri-plex, wonderful landscaping, detached garage & parking. Wood floors, large period details.
1418 5th Street
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Andrea Gordon

Alameda
\$979,000
Open
4BR/2.5BA. Lovely Victorian with a sophisticated, modern twist. Light filled main level features an open floor plan. All four bedrooms conveniently located on upper level. State of the art kitchen, beautiful baths, and so much more to see.
1717 St. Charles St.
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Oakland - Grand Lake

\$979,000 Open

3+BR/2+BA. A special income property. This 20th century craftsman triplex has extensive 21st century upgrades retaining the period elements: new roof, new dual paned windows, new electrical, new owner's unit chef's kit, new furnace & much more. Income units are 1BR/1BA w/hdwd flrs & 1 spacious studio w/separate kit.

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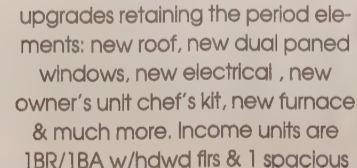
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Wonderful tri-plex in great central Berkeley location. Nicely maintained building & grounds. Two additional unwarranted units. Fabulous investment opportunity or use for owner occupant.
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Oakland
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Price Reduced. Large duplex & det gar. Up- 4BR. Down- 2+BR. Tenant occupied w/great rental income or perfect for owner use. Enormous lot zoned R50 for amazing development potential. Great loc.
3535 Lincoln Ave.
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Alameda
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Extensively remodeled Victorian Revival w/ 2600+ sq. ft. livable space. Extra bonus space. For sale or rent. Custom Oak trim & garage & off street parking.
2314 Clinton Ave.
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Montclair
\$699,000
Open
2BR/1.5BA. Fully remodeled cottage. Huge lot. Fully landscaped w/ auto sprinklers. Softwood floors. Lovely tiled kit & BA's. 1 car gar. Near the Village. EZ frwy access.
124 Duncan
Open Sun 2-4:30
Andrea Gordon

Oakland
\$599,000
2BR/1BA. Remodeled kit. Gorgeous hdwd flrs. Large DR. LR w/ brick tpic. Det gar w/hobby area. Great gardener's yard. Drip irrigation. Pantry/office. Inside laundry. By shopping.
Randy Churchill

Oakland
\$569,000
3BR/2BA. Terrific bungalow newly refurbished in & out. New paint. New tile. Remodeled BA's & kit. Lots of storage, garage, bonus office space/wishp. Great 1st home.
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Home

FROM PAGE B1

The entrance hall opens into an expansive living room with floor-to-ceiling windows that offer panoramic Golden Gate views. Vaulted ceilings, exposed brick, arched doorways, built-in shelving, natural wood and indirect lighting all lend these rooms a distinctly contemporary feel.

Krueger's open floor plan leads to the adjacent dining room and family room areas with equally dramatic views. The family room features a large open fireplace and access to extensive decks that runs along the outside of the home.

The chef's kitchen is well laid out and has views of the beautiful gardens landscaped and designed by Lazare Landscape. A large walk-in pantry, laundry room and office area create an ideal workspace off the kitchen as well as direct access to a spacious two-car garage.

The main floor also features one of the homes most interesting aspects: a grand indoor lap-sized pool (about 25 yards long x 10 yards wide) with its own bath and changing area as well as an exercise area. According to the current owner, solar calls on the roof of the pool as well as the high quality of the systems of the pool assure that it can be heated and maintained with minimal extra cost and maintenance effort.

Large sliding glass doors open up to the deck and create a feeling of true indoor/outdoor access. Views both to the Bay as well as into a Eucalyptus grove provide a rich backdrop to the casual ele-

gance and relaxed atmosphere that this home exudes.

The lower level offers a master bedroom with adjacent master bath, one additional bedroom and plus room with an additional bath off a shared hallway. Architectural elements of exposed brick and large windows also characterize

creating the option to use this area as an au-pair or guest suite.

One of the most wonderful aspects of this home is its magical setting in midst of nature. The house is totally secluded from neighboring houses, and is extremely quiet and has utmost privacy. The home is surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens, it's own greenhouse, private paths, patios and a small stream. Nature lovers will lavish in the wildlife that can be spotted any time during the day on the little spot of paradise. A colorful play structure is situated on one side of the garden for the younger children of the current owners.

Located in the heart of Kensington, the home features easy access to highways, shops and restaurants. Kensington is a small, family-oriented community with an excellent elementary school and several excellent private schools in the area.

There is a small shopping area within walking distance and a short 5 minute drive to a popular north Berkeley shopping and dining area as well as close proximity to all the North Berkeley gourmet ghetto famous restaurants.



A fireplace adds warmth to the family room at 444 Yale Ave.

DENNIS EVANSKY

these rooms. The upper floor features two additional bedrooms, a full bath and a separate entrance,

ing area as well as close proximity to all the North Berkeley gourmet ghetto famous restaurants.



SWIM ANYTIME: The home at 444 Yale Ave. in Kensington features a stunning swimming pool.

VITAL STATISTICS

What: A stunning contemporary home at 444 Yale Ave. in Kensington with panoramic views and a huge indoor swimming pool.

Size: An approximately 4,067 square-foot home on about .75 acres of land

Bedrooms: Four

Bathrooms: Four and one-half

Features: This dramatic and spacious contemporary masterpiece is on a private drive leading to a huge lot with gracious landscaping. Clean lines, vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, spacious and expansive views from almost every room complement this home.

Price: \$1,995,000

Listing agents: Colette Ford and Anja Plowright (Ford/Plowright), The Grubb Company, Bay Area, 510-652-2133, www.fordplowright.com for virtual tours.

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Making some lists, checking them twice

number 512 in a series of true houses in real estate. I think to making our new house clean and shiny. We were happy that we were moving into our new house. I was glad to help in the moving. This is a very cozy house for me.

My mother was looking for a house to make our new house clean and shiny. We were happy that we were moving into our new house. I was glad to help in the moving. This is a very cozy house for me.

I remembered this day with a lot of pleasure as I was about making a vacant house for Anet and me. We were looking for a house to make our new house clean and shiny. We were happy that we were moving into our new house. I was glad to help in the moving. This is a very cozy house for me.

bags for throw-aways. Check condition of toilet seats. Try doorbell. Look at gate latches.

Remember note paper and pencils. We and our workmen will need these. Soon we will bring, too, scissors, single-edge razor blades, screwdriver, other tools for specific tasks. I always have with me in the car, garden shears and a weeder and a few cleaning supplies.

There is something about a vacant and naked house that I find compelling. Maybe because I can see its secrets. Almost always, I want to mother it, clean it up and make it warm, then dress it, comb its hair.

There are advantages to moving out of a house before selling it. For one, moving away helps the letting-go process, and this can be painful and lengthy. And too, workmen can go without an appointment, at odd times of the day and night, without disturbing anyone. Problems are more easily seen so they can be fixed, closed, or — and sometimes this works — embraced and cited as advantages.

We will be at the house often to see how painters and floor people, carpenter and furnace people are doing. And we want to allow time to ourselves to discover the feeling in the house. Who walks on the streets, which rooms get morning sun, is the sound of a toilet flushing apparent downstairs?

I can't seem to be in or around a house without having to wash black marks off doorways or — here's a favorite — I see tiny paint blobs on a floor or on the bath tile and I've just got to get them off. Or, we're talking to our contractor about outdoor lighting out on the back porch when I spy yellow oxalis weeds amongst the geraniums and while still talking, I'm ripping the oxalis out, carrying it around in my hands.



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The notepad and pen are handy for recording curtain and rod measurements, the number of cupboard handles we'll need, the different waxes, base and style of light bulbs.

Also, cautionary notes for anyone coming to the house. "Careful when you go in the basement. Last step is loose."

We write down questions to ask our sellers and items that will be included in disclosures. Are there keys to both back doors? The front walkway cement is cracked and one light switch in the dining room operates nothing.

Frequently it takes sellers longer than they anticipated to empty out the house. As the layers go, as closets and garage are emptied, inevitably we discover new things that need repair or replacement or should be mentioned in the disclosures.

We've discovered at the last minute missing window hardware and cracked glass (they had been hidden behind curtains), a squirrel nest (in a dryer vent), electrical boxes without covers (behind stored boxes), cat box damage (under newspapers).

Later phase checklists: Wash outsides of washer and dryer; get rid of rust rings in sink; oil on cutting board; hand soap in kitchen; baking soda for refrigerator.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 853-2050 and at www.tarpoandtalbert.com.

Make bonds a building block in your portfolio

When it comes to investments, bonds are one of the basic building blocks and can be a key element of a well-diversified portfolio. Diversification refers to your particular combination of various asset classes, such as stocks, bonds and cash, in proportions that fit your investment goals and objectives, risk tolerance and investment time horizon. By properly allocating these

Once again, our discussion of bonds brings us back to the idea of diversification. To expand on our earlier definition of the term, diversification means investing in assets in different categories with the intent of reducing overall risk. Diversification does not ensure a profit, or guarantee against a loss. Naturally, there would be inherent risks associated with each individual se-



LEILA GOUGH
Money Matters

Your individual risk tolerance and suitability should always be considered before selecting any investment. However, if your goal is to build a well-diversified investment portfolio, remember that bonds can be one of your most basic starting points.

A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer, but may act as an investment advisor on designated accounts, and the firm's obligations will vary with the role it plays. When working with clients the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To better understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult "Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards" on agedwards.com.

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

All bonds are subject to interest-rate or market risk, so it is important to understand how that could affect your investment if you decide to sell your bonds before maturity.

elements, you can align your portfolio to your individual investment strategy.

How exactly can bonds fit within your overall investment goals? Bonds are a staple in many investors' portfolios because they have the ability to:

- Provide regular income
- Offer the potential to lower volatility in your overall portfolio
- Help provide a means of diversification among your general investment mix

Any investor who pays for living expenses or other regular obligations with money from their investment portfolio knows how important it is to generate income from that portfolio. Bonds are probably most commonly known for their potential to generate income because of their regular interest payments. These payments vary by bond issue but can be made on a semi-annual, quarterly or even monthly basis, and they can help add to the income earned from your portfolio. Consider, for example, an investor who buys a bond and then watches it decrease in value.

Fortunately, the income stream from the bond would still add to this investor's total return, helping to ease the pain of the loss in market value. Many investors worry about how the ups and downs of the market will affect the value of their portfolios. While stocks have historically provided greater returns, bonds have been less volatile, thereby providing more stability in an overall investment mix (please remember that past results may not be indicative of the future).

In simple terms, volatility can be described as the degree to which the price of a security — or an entire portfolio, for that matter — fluctuates during a given period of time. It is important to pay particular attention to this concept when you invest to meet any time-sensitive investment objective.

It is usually advantageous to begin to reduce the fluctuations in your portfolio as you approach the time you think you will need to use that money. As a significant part of a well-diversified portfolio, bonds can help you preserve principal and meet your specific investment objectives.

PLEASE RECYCLE.

Understanding the purchase contract

works, however, the more effectively you can tailor it to your desired specifications. You'll also be a much savvier negotiator when the seller comes back with a counteroffer.

Read the fine print: Many residential purchase contracts are cluttered with standard real estate boilerplate. Many firms, in fact, use preprinted forms. While preprinted or computer-stored forms have improved the efficiency of the home-buying process, it can be at the expense of the buyer. So it pays to get a copy early on of the contract you're likely to use.

Read it and don't hesitate to rewrite or toss out what you don't like. If you'll be working with a pre-print, get a copy when you first start looking for a house and highlight terms or conditions you like or may want to modify when you're ready to make an offer. Circle what you dislike, too;

it's a good way to catch buyer-unfriendly fine print. After that, you're ready to sit down and write an offer you hope the seller won't refuse.

What every contract should have: Whether you're writing your own contract or using a preprinted form, every contract should have between 10 and 20 basic elements. These include the address of the property, contingencies, financing terms, purchase price, closing date and others.

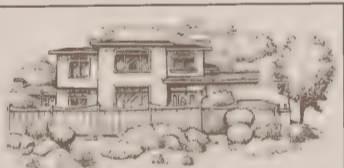
Other musts

- Time to respond: Specific amount of time for seller to answer your offer. Contingencies also should set time limits.
- Seller's responsibilities: Include passing clear title to the property, maintaining the property in its

See CONTRACT, Page B4

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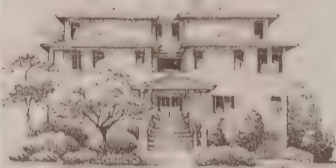
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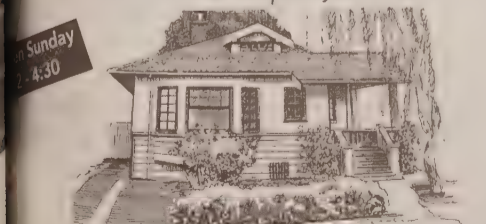


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Leverette Company Presents :



655 Aileen St. Oakland
Offered at \$595,000

An Adorable Craftsman bungalow with a deep backyard. 2 bedrooms 1 bath plus a sunroom.

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(510) 883-1895
www.leveretteco.com



Leverette Company Realtors 2920 Domingo Ave. Suite 207 Berkeley 94705

Contract

FROM PAGE B3

present condition until closing, making any agreed-upon repairs and delivering the property clean and free of personal possessions and debris.

■ **Disposition of deposit:** Who gets your good-faith deposit if contract is terminated. Varies with circumstances, such as failure to get loan approval (seller would get deposit) or unsatisfactory home inspection (buyer would get deposit).

■ **What stays:** What fixtures and personal property is included in the sale. Make your list detailed; any verbal agreements are not binding.

■ **Terms of withdrawal:** What conditions allow you or the seller to

withdraw from the agreement. You might not think you'll need them, but it's good protection.

■ **Final walk-through:** Your chance to make sure the house is in order shortly before closing. Contract should specify seller's responsibility should walk-through be unsatisfactory.

Problem solving

As much as possible, your purchase contract should help you and the seller resolve any issues that crop up. For example, your interest rate is only good for 60 days and the seller indicates they may not be able to close in that time.

One solution would be to include a provision in your contract that sets a firm closing date and allows the sellers to rent back to you at a cost equal to your monthly payment.

Do not enter into a binding contract to buy a property unless you are sure you want to buy it. Even though contingencies are included in a purchase contract to protect you, your deposit could be at risk if you fail to complete the purchase.

Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself in court—for example, if you or the seller withdraws from the contract for a reason not in the contract. The seller might be able to sue you and you probably would lose your deposit.

You also could sue the seller, either for damages or for specific performance. If you win a suit for specific performance, the court will require the sellers to abide by the purchase contract.

Protect yourself from defects: Defects that surface after closing can be a problem. Most real estate purchase contracts include a seller warranty clause.

Although the clauses vary, they usually require the seller to deliver the property to the buyer with a watertight roof and with the operating systems of the house (plumbing, electrical, heating, cooling, built-in appliances) in working condition.

The clause also may require the seller to disclose known defects.

Never a remorseful buyer be: Do not enter into a binding contract to buy a property unless you are sure you want to buy it.

Even though contingencies are included in a purchase contract to protect you, your deposit could be at risk if you fail to complete the purchase.

Few sellers will be willing to include a contingency that permits the buyers to back out risk-free if they are simply suffering from buyer's remorse.

A seller's out button: An escape clause, also called a release or kick-out clause, is a provision in a purchase contract that gives the sellers the opportunity to cancel the contract under certain conditions. Escape clauses are most common in purchase contracts contingent on the sale of the buyer's property.

Need help buying a home

■ Learn what it takes to qualify for first-home purchase assistance

RE/MAX IN MOTION

Do you qualify to buy a home? Don't wait to find out. Mortgage interest continues at a historically low level, rates are rising up. Low interest rates mean lower monthly home loan payments. Many potential first time homebuyers put off preparing to become a homeowner. Unanswered questions prevent them from moving forward. Do I need 20 percent down? How much cash do I need? What if I have a low credit score? Answering these questions is the first step toward homeownership.

The next step is education. Get the answers to all your questions and prepare yourself for homebuying by attending the "First Purchase". The free class is scheduled from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 20, at the RE/Max Conference Center in Castroville. "Getting your initial homebuying questions answered" is the start," said Fleming. "But first time buyers are empowered to come more knowledgeable about the entire process."

One of Fleming's areas of specialization is real estate education. His team includes experts knowledgeable about financial products for those in the public service sector. Fleming also offers training for those new to the area, with worldwide RE/Max contacts.

The guest speaker is loan consultant Anzella Jones of First Loan. She will explain special offerings for first timers, such as buy with no money down, how to work with less than perfect credit, how to prove income if self-employed. Additionally, Jones will discuss other loan products, how to improve credit and filling out an application.

Seating is limited. Reservations are encouraged. To learn more, contact Fleming at 888-681-7771 ext. 708 or visit localhomes.com.

Real Estate Focus:

'Luxe' Townhome



LUXE IS MORE THAN A LOOK, it's a feeling: A feeling that you have arrived, a feeling of unique elegance and quintessential style. Surround yourself in the luxurious feeling of this designer-perfect townhome nestled at 36 Clarewood Lane, among the redwood trees in the upper Rockridge neighborhood of Oakland. Experience excellence in every detail from the floor to ceiling bookcases with crown molding in the study area to the flawless functionality of the chef's kitchen which boasts marble backsplash, black granite floors and stainless appliances. Breathtaking in every aspect the living room is characterized by its soaring vaulted ceiling, onyx wood flooring and Italian light fixtures. Dining is a pleasure whether its an intimate brunch on the tranquil deck or a formal dinner at the custom-designed table. And when the day is done retreat to a bedroom that really makes you feel like the master. Unwind in the loft area overlooking the living room or relax in the steam shower before turning in for the evening.

Price: \$749,000.

Listing agent: Mavis Delacroix, the Grubb Co., 510-339-0400 ext.205

Tips for buyers and sellers

BY BEV MUNCER
COLDWELL BANKER

It's springtime again, the season when millions of houses and condos go on the market during the biggest real estate sales period of the year. The showcase of the season is the time-honored practice of holding an open house, an activity that helps sellers evaluate interest in their home and attract buyers while letting home shoppers visit a maximum

of potential homes in a minimum amount of time.

To be sure, this is an American tradition on a spring weekend. Consumers drive through neighborhoods searching for houses in which they might like to live, and real estate professionals place "Open House" signs at nearby well-traveled intersections with directions to the open house in hopes of attracting buyers.

But like any other marketing tool, some open homes are more successful than others. What makes one work and another not? Here are a few tips that might help you.

Maximize curb appeal. Make sure that the outside of your home looks as appealing as possible.

Water and mow the lawn, trim the trees, cut back overgrowth and plant colorful flowers. Also, be sure to store bicycles, gardening equipment, and children's and pet's toys, and remove the car from the driveway to provide parking.

Make your home move. Stow your family's trophies, collectibles and anything else that stamps your personality on your home. You want to leave buyers to imagine their own memories. That's hard to do with constant reminders of your life. **Spice and span.** Potential buyers will want to imagine your home from the inside and the bathrooms to the kitchen and the garage. Repaint to create a positive experience for potential buyers.

See MUNCER, Page B4

Piedmont Listings



393 Hampton Road

By Appointment

Offered at \$3,595,000



449 Scenic Avenue

Open Sunday 2-4:30

Offered at \$1,895,000



160 Estates Drive

Open Sunday 2-4:30

Offered at \$1,950,000

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REALTORS

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Office: 510.339.0400/217
tunney@grubbco.com

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TERE LEE REAL ESTATE TEAM



Tere Lee, CRS
Team Leader

"TRUST A PROFESSIONAL WHO CARES"

SAN LEANDRO

NEW LISTING!
OPEN SUN 5/21, 1-4PM

502 SUPERIOR AVE.

Elegant tri-level home, 3 bdrm/2 bath, oak hardwood floors, French doors, extra large corner lot, 2 fireplaces, crown molding, charming tiled family rm., det. office, large backyard w/rose garden. \$799,500

NEW LISTING!

1400 CARPENTIER ST. #210

2 Bdrm/2 Bath - Beautiful condo at Pacific Plaza. Close to BART. \$450,000

14390 OUTRIGGER DR.

2 Bdrm - Beautiful Seagate \$800,000

1182 LOUISE ST.

PENDING \$500,000

153 LAVERNE DR.

3 Bdrm/2 Bath - In Manor \$635,000

OAKLAND

NEW LISTING!

OPEN SAT & SUN 5/20 & 5/21, 1-4PM

4727 DAVENPORT AVE.

3 Bdrm/1.5 Bath - Lovely family home w/View "Handyman Special" \$599,000

989 FRANKLIN ST. #617

Beautiful condo at the Franklin 88. 2 Bdrm/2 Bath - in the Heart of Oakland Chinatown. \$628,888

3800 MAYBELLE AVE. #12

2 Bdrm/1.5 Bath townhouse - many upgrades! \$384,000

Direct: 510.348.4112

Toll Free: 800.809.TERE

E-mail: terelee@msn.com

www.tereleehomes.com

KELLER WILLIAMS

14824 Wicks Blvd.

San Leandro, CA 94577

BERKELEY HILLS 510.524.9888 REALTY



2753 Buena Vista Way, Berkeley

By Appointment

Amongst the distinctive houses in this coveted neighborhood is this 1914 Wm. C. Hayes Florentine Shingle Palazzo, w/arched entrance & loggia. Like a new house with award-winning restoration & remodel & a recent addition. 4 bdrms, 3.5 baths includes mstr & guest suites, spectacular views, superb indoor/outdoor, lush landscaped yard & in mint condition.

Norah Brower x26

\$1,795,000



1705 Madera, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New listing! Coveted location between Solano & Monterey Market. Lovely 1913 Shingle Craftsman. Classic entry, redwood wainscot in living & dining rooms. Kitchen opens to gently sloping yard. 3 bdrms incl. master w/Mt. Tam view, beamed ceiling, deck. 1 tiled bath. Big family room. New paint, gleaming hwd floors. Basement storage. Very special.

Nancy Mueller x20

\$890,000



219 Plumpoint Lane, San Ramon

Open Saturday & Sunday 1:00 - 4:00

New listing! Tranquil suburban living in a fabulous location! Near shops, restaurants and Black Hawk Plaza. Entry opens to a bright, open living/dining area with vaulted ceilings. Two master suites and office on upper level for privacy. Dine alfresco on the brick patio & landscaped yard and enjoy the summer in the common pool & playground.

Gertrude Villanueva x42

\$655,000



373 - 40th Street, #3, Oakland

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Stylish warehouse loft w/original wood-bone ceiling, brick walls, private patio, radiant skylights, "green" materials & incredible garden area. Feels like a village. 1+ bdrms, urban oasis near BART & Piedmont Ave.

Norah Brower x26



520 Evelyn Ave., Albany

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New listing! Delightful 1-bdrm, 1-bath home constructed in 1930 by renowned builder C. McGregor. Distinctive Old-English style circular chimney. Lovely liv. rm. w/high ceilings. Beautifully refinished oak floors, new inside & out, new roof.

Nancy Mueller x42

"I also wanted to tell you how much I appreciate your newsletter - very thoughtful and informative. Thank you for being such a great community resource. You are such a dynamic company and team!"

- K.B., Oakland

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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

news and information for and
the area real estate commu-
and affiliated industries

THE PUBLIC

What are you doing Memorial
weekend? How about planning
to a local historical home?

The Meyers House and Gar-
den is a 1897 treasure. This
house has become Alameda's first
house museum. Visit the
house on the fourth Saturday of
the month, 1 to 4 p.m., call for
costs and information.
510-521-1247

Casa Peralta is located in San
Francisco. The house, abundant with
history, was built in 1869. Next door
to the house is the Little Brown
House and a historical museum.
on weekends from 12 to 4 p.m.
510-577-3986 for group tours.
at the corner of 11th and Cas-
tro. In Oakland stands the
beautifully preserved Pardee Home
Museum. The Gold Rush era
home built the father of a California
gold miner. Enjoy a guided tour Wednes-
day or Saturday. For tour
check the website
perdeehome.org.
Learn about historical homes

in Berkeley and those responsible
for them by visiting The Berkeley
Historical Society History Center.
Research history from Julia Mor-
gan's designs to the small cottages
tucked here and there. The center
is open Thursday through Saturday,
from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 510-484-0181
for information. Admission is free.

Free Classes

Bay buying. Jenny Shore of Al-
ternative Mortgage is conducting a
seminar for first-time homebuyers.
Learn how you can get creative and
be able to buy in the Bay Area. The
seminar is Saturday, May 27 from
10 a.m. to noon in Oakland. To at-
tend and for location information
call 510-652-7900.

Assistance. Buyers can qualify
for down payment and closing cost
assistance programs from the State
of California. Prepare for home-
buying at the "My First Home Pur-
chase" seminar, 6 to 7:30 p.m.,
Thursday, May 25, in San Leandro.
Call Anzella Jones of First Secu-
rity Loan at 888-856-4647 ext. 706.

Reverse loans. Senior citizens
needing additional income should
consider a reverse mortgage. The
Reverse Mortgage Seminar helps
you decide if this option is right for
you. The free class is at Bayridge
Realty & Financial, 1:30 to 3 p.m.,

tomorrow. The presenter is reverse
mortgage specialist **Derry Hamp-
ton** with real estate broker **Steve
Zager** as host. RSVP by calling 510-
524-3333 ext. 301.

Internet session. The Internet
is a growing real estate market-
place. If you would like to learn the
ins and outs of buying and selling,
join in on the monthly Q & A ses-
sion with the Real Estate Consult-
ing Center. Register for the Mon-
day, May 22 meeting
realestateconsultingcenter.com.

Smart. If you are ready for
smart financial solutions to home
buying, "The Home Buying Solu-
tions Seminar" is the right choice.
This free class is from 10 a.m. to
noon, Saturday, June 3. The class
is held monthly at the San Leand-
ro Main Library. For information
on the next class, call **Margie Lupo**
of Vintage Mortgage at 888-629-
0077 ext. 8610.

AAR Teachers

The Alameda Association of Re-
altors takes supporting schools se-
riously. Many teachers spend at
least \$500 of their own to buy sup-
plies for their classrooms. In order
to help with these expenses AAR
created the "Adopt A Classroom"
fund. Realtors donate at close of

escrow, but all donations are wel-
come, just call 510-523-7229.

Crooner

Real estate Affiliate **Alan Huty**
of American Tax Professionals
wears more than one hat. He
moonlights as "The Crooner By The
Bay". Hear his next performance,
6 p.m., May 21, at Papillon's
Restaurant. Call for reservations at
510-793-6333.

BAR GIVES

The Berkeley Association of Re-
altors holds the concept of giving
back to the community as a high
priority. BAR president **Ron Eghe-
man** announced the first grants
from the association's Youth Arts &
Education Fund. Checks were pre-
sented to Berkeley High School's
photography program and to the
Albany High School's Music Fund.
The BAR fund supports children's
arts and education experience in
Albany Berkeley, El Cerrito and
Kensington. Contributions can be
made by visiting the Web site at
www.berkeleyaor.com

FLY RAFFLE

The Oakland Association of Re-
altors supports the Oral Lee Brown
Foundation. The foundation fund

provides college scholarships for
high school students. The Chair for
2006 **Lois Harris** of Prudential Cal-
ifornia Realty announced a raffle to
raise funds for these kids. The prize
is a round-trip Southwest Airlines
ticket anywhere S.W.A. flies. Each en-
try is \$25. You can buy as many en-
tries as you wish. The raffle is open
to everyone. The drawing will be
held Monday, May 22. To get your
entry call 510-836-3000 and fly
away with S.W.A.

STEP UP

It's Leg Day. Wednesday, June
7 is Legislative Day in Sacramento.
Meet with state legislators. Hear



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

about upcoming laws that could
change the way you do business.
Learn CAR positions that will affect
you and your clients. Your local as-
sociations are offering organized
bus trips. Some trips plan contin-
uing education and meals. For more
information contact your local as-
sociation of Realtors.

See REID, Page B6

Seminar focuses on first-time buyers

ALTERNATIVE MORTGAGE SOURCES

Jenny Shore's free seminar for first-time home buyers is chock full of
information. "I am passionate about helping her clients to achieve their
goals and become stronger, smarter, more self-aware buyers," she said.

Learn how you can get creative and be able to buy in the Bay Area.
The seminar will be held Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to noon in a
beautiful downtown Oakland showroom. To reserve a spot, call 510-652-
7900 or e-mail jenny@altmortg.com

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Beautifully maintained
home with covered floor plan: inviting kitchen/
family room, formal living room & separate
dining room, fourth bedroom/entertainment
room & one bath on the main level; three
bedrooms, two baths on the lower level. Lovely
yards including some Bay views, gorgeous
gardens and outdoor spaces.

Offered at \$995,000



1715 Alhambra Lane,
Montclair

ANNE VAN DYKE
Office: 510.339.0400/399
avandykegrubbco.com

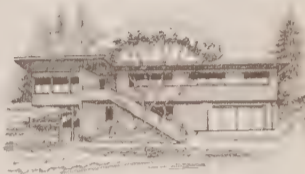


The GRUBB Co.
GRUBBCO.COM

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Fabulous park-like setting
with a distinguished mid-century home designed
by Hans Ostwald! Five bedrooms, three baths,
family room, study, formal dining room and
attached two-car garage. Breathtaking views!

Offered at \$1,550,000



1097 Creston Road
Berkeley

The GRUBB Co.
GRUBBCO.COM

BEBE McRAE
Office: 510.652.2133
mcrae@grubbco.com

The GRUBB Co.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30
Atop Haddon Hill, this gracious Georgian
home offers living room, formal dining,
kitchen, cook's kitchen, and family room that
opens to patio garden with gazebo. Second floor
features four bedrooms, including a master
suite with walk-in closet and office. Near shops,
restaurants, and Lakeshore Farmers' Market.

Offered at \$1,249,000



621 Hillgirt Circle, Oakland

BEN KAHN
510.339.0400/310 GRUBBCO.COM
bkahn@grubbco.com

JUDY CAIN
510.339.0400/209
cain@grubbco.com



open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Great potential for a
four bedroom home in the Claremont!
Move-in and make it your own! Formal
dining room, family room, au-pair space, eat-
in kitchen, and an attached garage.

Offered at \$895,000



11 Alvarado Road, Berkeley

The GRUBB Co.
GRUBBCO.COM

BEBE McRAE
Office: 510.652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbco.com

A sampling of our current listings:

	San Pablo Cute 3bd/1ba home -- hardwood floors, new double pane windows, tiled kitchen and bath. Roof is 5 years old. White picket fence front yard and many fruit trees in backyard \$425,000
	San Francisco -- Mission Beautiful 3-unit Edwardian. 2 2bd units, wonderfully updated 3bd top floor unit with views to Twin Peaks. Ideal investment or as TICs (two units vacant at COE). \$1,795,000
	Mill Valley Charming 4 bd, 1 ba home in popular Sycamore Park close to schools, rec center, downtown & more. Refinished floors and new paint inside and outside facade. Use as is or bring your imagination. There's lots of potential. \$950,000

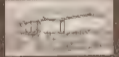
Prudential California Realty

Jim Hedges
manager
stunionjim@aol.com
415-762-9399



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We are a mortgage broker and do not make mortgage loan commitments or fund mortgage loans.
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First Open

914 D San Pablo Avenue, Albany



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 PM. Spacious Albany Commons townhome featuring 3BR,
3.5BA oversized roof deck and 2 Car private garage. Custom upgrades to the
property include enclosed Master-loft and tastefully renovated for function and
style. A wonderful opportunity for today's value conscious single-family home
buyers. Must see inside!

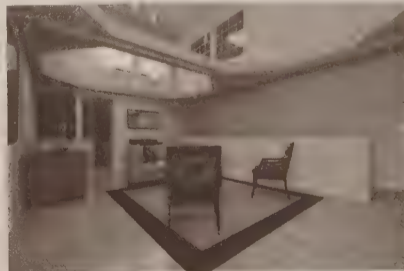
Offered at \$825,000

ROBIN DUSTAN
McGUIRE PARTNER
(415) 296-2108
RDustan@McGuire.com



Back on the Market

916 D San Pablo Avenue, Albany



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 PM. First resale of the largest floor plan at Albany Commons! Newly
built in 2004, this light-filled 3BR, 3.5BA home-like condominium features a huge private
deck with views of the Berkeley Hills. Custom finishes and a warm palate of colors with
a 2-car private garage and an amazing location just steps to Solano Avenue, easy access to
public transportation and one of the best school districts in the East Bay. Visit the website at
www.916dSanPablo.com.

Offered at \$798,000

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McGUIRE PARTNER
(415) 296-2108
RDustan@McGuire.com



Reid

FROM PAGE B5

PORTER HONORED

Colleen Porter, executive vice president of the Oakland Association of Realtors, is being honored by the National Association of Realtors with the association's Certified Executive (RCE) designation. The RCE recognizes exceptional efforts made by Realtor association executives. Porter is one of over 250 association executives who have achieved this mark of excellence.

Local and state association executives who hold the RCE designation represent more than 600,000 Realtors in 44 states.

BOBBIE HEARS

■ Guess who? Who is the OAR Housing Opportunity committee chair for 2006? It's **Georgia Richardson** of Richardson Real Estate Services. Richardson is a past president of the Oakland Association of Realtors.

■ The 7th Annual Tech Faire was held in April. I want to recognize a couple of folks that have worked on the fair since the begin-

ning and are still making it happen. Kudos go to **Gregg Fujita** of Harbor Bay Realty and **Donna Smyth** of Alliance Title. Thanks for a job well done.

LET'S TALK?

Tell me about it! Real estate related fundraisers, meetings, workshops, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). Information deadline is two weeks before the event takes place.

Send an email to bobbiereld@mindspring.com or visit my Web site at www.BobbieReid.com.

Prudential presents 'Condos to Castles'

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY

Prudential California Realty hosts its annual "Condos to Castles Spring Open House" this Sunday. Visitors will be entered in a drawing to win a trip to Disney World for four, plus \$1,000 spending money. "This is a great opportunity for the public to see quality homes in all price ranges and possibly win a fantastic family vacation," said Ed Kraf-

chow, president of Prudential California Realty. "Spring is typically when we see the most inventory and the most market activity. Thirty-year mortgage rates are still at historic lows, Northern California home prices have increased 23 percent over the past year and demand for housing still outpaces supply by a considerable margin."

"We're doing a lot to feature our featured homes in the paper and through online listings," said Krafchow. "We've had a surge in buyers, sellers who want to move. It's a wonderful time to see a list of open houses." www.prcalrealty.com

★ ★ Endless Glenview ★ ★



A Place to Grow (Your Income)
1042 Elbert Street
Offered at \$799,000

- Three spacious levels, 4 beds / 3 baths, 'plus' rooms, artist's studio in basement
- 1 bed / 1 bath leased rental unit with stable income
- Glossy dark hardwood floors; paneling throughout main level; large fireplace
- Chef's kitchen, sun-filled breakfast room with built-ins
- Forested, private hillside setting on secluded cul-de-sac near Park Ave.
- Potential upper deck area with views of Mt. Tamalpais
- A "mountain retreat," just blocks from the heart of Glenview shopping & dining
- Enjoy the rental income or expand the main home even more

Open Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.
ONLINE TOUR: www.1042Elbert.com

Stephen Bloom, Realtor®
Lawton Associates
510.541.6728
bloom@BloomHomes.com



Mary Smartt, Realtor®
Lawton Associates
510.386.8636
msmartt@jps.net

54 Chancellor Place



Claremont Hills
Offered at \$1,295,000

Inspiring views of the Claremont Canyon and the Bay

- Approx. 3,000 square feet of light-filled living space
- 3++ generous bedrooms and 3.5 baths
- 3-car garage with workshop plus large unfinished basement
- On nearly 1/4 acre with yard for outdoor living in a serene setting

OPEN
SUNDAY
2-4



5 Ambler Place, Oakland

West End Commons
Offered at \$485,000

Live + Work 2-Story Townhouse
A David Baker + Partners Project

- First floor kitchen/living/work space w/high ceilings
- Large second floor bedroom with walk-in closet
- Additional flex loft space
- Well-appointed split bathroom
- Bosch washer/dryer
- Dedicated parking /EZ to BB/580/80/880

Diana Yonkouski, Broker 510.597.0292 baproperties.com

Bay Area Properties on Claremont

BAY AREA PROPERTIES



GRAND OPENING
OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 11 to 6

South Side Lofts - Berkeley

Priced From \$525,000 to \$650,000

- New construction in South Berkeley
- 10 Loft Style Condominiums
- Designer Kitchens with granite Countertops
- Vaulted Ceilings and Expansive Windows
- Dramatic Architectural Details
- Beautiful Concrete Floors
- Hill and Bay Views
- Garages and Video Intercom System

2400 Dowling Place,
at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA

www.sslofts.com

South Side Lofts is a stunning new development in Berkeley. The property consists of 10 for sale loft style condominiums with a variety of two-level floor plans and dynamic architectural features such as a large mezzanine, high ceilings, saw tooth roofs, and open floor plans. These inviting units feature designer kitchens with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, expansive windows, bathrooms with Crème marble counters, and oversize bathtubs with marble surround. Located along the vibrant Telegraph Avenue Corridor in Berkeley's Elmwood Neighborhood, South Side Lofts is close to U.C. Berkeley, Whole Foods Market and the Rockridge shopping district.

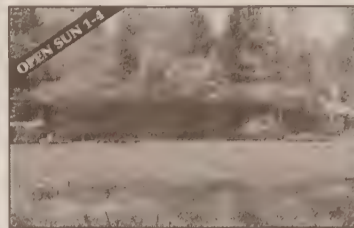
South
Side
Lofts

Offered Exclusively By
Craig Beckerman, Realtor
510-333-0507

Brenda Walker, Realtor
510-333-5715



The Beaubelle Group Presents ...



4059 Happy Valley Road Lafayette

Approximately 1.25 acres in Happy Valley. Behind rustic gates and down a long driveway over a stream and thru a towering Redwood with night lighting, sits this private 4 bedroom bath Craftsman-like home. Surrounded by expansive lawns, gardens, native oaks, and creeks, this property is truly one of a kind. Offered At \$3,495,000



Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle

Coldwell Banker's #1 Agent & Sales Group in
Lamorinda: Lafayette • Moraga • Orinda
(925) 254-1212
email: glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com
Pictures/Info at www.TheBeaubelleGroup.com



184 Moraga Way, Orinda

Beautiful Orinda Hacienda with cottage. Over .90 acre of oak studded property, patios and meandering pathways. Offered for \$1,299,000



LINDA VAN DRENT, CRS
Broker Associate
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Buy the Bay.



The best just got better. Discover the new Marina Bay. Three master-planned gated condominium home communities, spectacularly situated by the shores of San Francisco Bay. Each with its own special character. All in one incomparable location. Close to major freeways and everything you love about living in the Bay Area. Discover quality, value and convenience at Marina Bay. Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



From the mid-\$300,000s



From the low \$300,000s



From the high \$200,000s

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Full 3% Broker Co-op 888-590-6712 HomesAtMarinaBay.com

DIRECTIONS: From I-80, take I-580 west toward Point Richmond/San Rafael to Marina Bay Parkway/South 23rd Street exit; left onto Marina Bay Parkway and follow signs to sales information centers at Marina Bay, The Shores and The Cove.

*Example: sales price \$290,000; first mortgage loan amount \$232,000; second mortgage amount \$29,000; down payment \$29,000. *First mortgage is a 5/1 ARM; 30 year term, rate fixed for the first 5 years; 6.25% interest rate. APR 6.323% (APR is subject to change with closing costs). The estimated monthly interest only payment is \$1,208.33. This payment is fixed for 5 years. This includes all discount points, with no origination fee. *Second mortgage is a Home Equity Loan, fixed for 5 years. Rate is estimated at 6.000% (estimated interest only payment is \$193.33). *All terms subject to credit approval. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. The above information is based on FICO credit score 740; minimum 680 FICO required for expanded LTV and cash-out refinancing. *Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. 2006. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. *All prices are subject to error, omission and change without notice. All prices are base prices and subject to availability and location premiums. This ad supersedes all previous ads or offers. See your sales consultant for details.

Considering a remodel? Make sure it pays off

APA
Your family has to wait in line for a shower, or if you're storing paint cans in the laundry room, lack of cabinet space, it could be time to consider a home remodel. Not only will an upgrade make your house more attractive to you and your family, it can also increase its resale value. Find out if your project will pay for itself by comparing the cost to the resale value of your home. The stock of other houses in your neighborhood. Have many been upgraded in the past? If your house is the only one without a finished basement, that would be a good project. If everyone on the

block has added a bathroom or upgraded their master suite, these projects would pay off as well. On the other hand, you may not want to price your house out of the market by adding a third or fourth garage if that's not the standard in your area.

Remodeling magazine conducts an annual survey that compares construction costs with resale values. Over the past four years, bathroom and kitchen remodeling have consistently shown good returns on investment. In 2005, a kitchen remodel that included updating cabinet fronts; replacing the oven, stove, sink and

See REMODEL, Page B8



WILL YOUR PROJECT add to the resale value of your home?

JUST SOLD

CROCKER HIGHLANDS
747 ROSEMOUNT ROAD

3+ bedroom, 2+ bath
Colonial Revival with wonderful architectural detailing.

OFFERED AT
\$1,350,000

Call Dian for information about the Coldwell Banker Previews marketing plan



DIAN HYMER, CRS

Associate Broker
Previews Property Specialist
#1 Agent in the Oakland/Piedmont office
510-339-4777
Photo Tours At: dianhymer.com

JUST LISTED

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4



1638 GRANT STREET

Light & airy 2 BR/1BA Victorian cottage with updated kitchen, open living room, skylights, dual pane windows, and a gorgeous garden w/grape arbor. The detached garage is currently being used as an office/studio. Near Gourmet Ghetto & U.C. Berkeley.

Info and photos visit: www.GDELLA.com

OFFERED AT
\$569,000



GENE DELLA MAGGIORA

Realtor
2005 BAR Realtor of the Year
Cell: 510.684.2539
Office: 510.981.3044

JUST LISTED

OPEN SAT & SUN 2:00 - 4:30 PM



14 CHAMBERS LANE

Sharp Robert Goetz design, open and airy with 3++ bedrooms, 3 baths and spacious family room. Serene canyon views with level-in access & sun porch. Many upgrades and updates. Move right in.

www.14chamberslane.com

OFFERED AT
\$795,000



JOAN DUFFIELD

PREVIEW Property Specialist
510-339-4777
joan.duffield@coldwellbanker.com

COLDWELL BANKER



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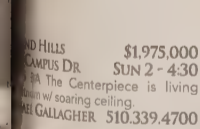
OPEN HOMES



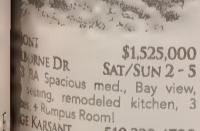
BERKELEY
\$2,695,000
SUN 2-4
6.5 BA Spectacular Home in w/ pool & pool house
BARBARA MARIENTHAL
510.486.1495



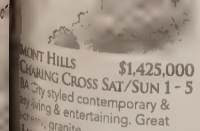
ANTONIO
\$2,120,000
SUN 2-4
5 BA Enchanting Mediterranean w/ membership in adjacent club. Rare find!
MARIENTHAL
510.486.1495



HILLS
\$1,975,000
SUN 2-4
3 BA The Centerpiece is living room w/ soaring ceiling
GALLAGHER
510.339.4700

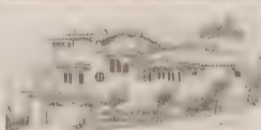


MONT
\$1,525,000
SAT/SUN 2-5
3 BA Spacious med., Bay view, w/ swimming, remodeled kitchen, 3 car, + Rumpus Room!
KARSANT
510.339.4700



MONT HILLS
\$1,425,000
CHANGING CROSS SAT/SUN 1-5
3 BA Stylish contemporary & w/ swimming & entertaining. Great views, granite.
HARGRESTER
510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES



MONTCLAIR
\$1,195,000
SUN 2-4:30
4 BR 3 BA 1994 Beautiful contemporary Living & Family room with frplc. Luxurious master suite
LIAT BOSTICK/PRESTON GRANT
510.339.4700



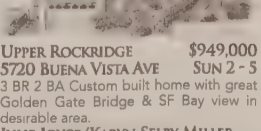
CROCKER HIGHLANDS
\$1,185,000
SUN 2-4:30
3 BR 2+ BA Enchanting renovated Mediterranean. Great outdoor living, family room, plus room.
DIAN HYMER
510.339.4700



OAKLAND
\$1,045,000
SUN 1:30-4:30
5 BR 3.5 BA Emeryville Border Duplex. 2 Spacious units. New Foundation, roof, plumbing, kitchens. Views!
CATHERINE VARNAU
510.486.1495



BERKELEY
\$965,000
SUN 2-4
4+BR 3.5 BA RARE! 2 gorgeous houses on 1 lot. ULTRA FLEX! 2 gorgeous houses on 1 lot. ULTRA FLEX! 2 gorgeous houses on 1 lot. ULTRA FLEX!
MICHAEL OH
510.486.1495

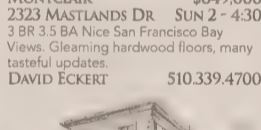


UPPER ROCKRIDGE
\$949,000
SUN 2-5
3 BR 2 BA Custom built home with great Golden Gate Bridge & SF Bay view in desirable area.
JULIE JOYCE/KARYN SELBY MILLER
510.339.4700

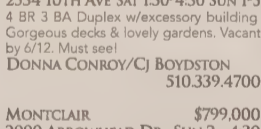
OPEN HOMES



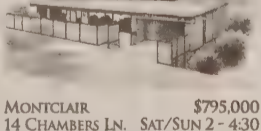
CRESMONT
\$857,000
SAT/SUN 1-5
3 BR 2 BA Gourmet kitchen, deck, bay view, custom pool & spa
www.201Crestmont.com
JAMES BROWN
510.339.4700



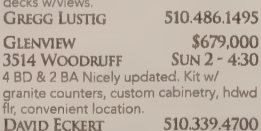
MONTCLAIR
\$849,000
SUN 2-4:30
3 BR 3.5 BA Nice San Francisco Bay Views. Gleaming hardwood floors, many tasteful updates.
DAVID ECKERT
510.339.4700



IVY HILL
\$759,000
SAT 1:30-4:30 SUN 1-5
4 BR 3 BA Duplex w/excessory building Gorgeous decks & lovely gardens. Vacant by 6/12. Must see!
DONNA CONROY/CJ BOYDSTON
510.339.4700

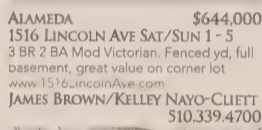


MONTCLAIR
\$799,000
SUN 2-4:30
4 BR 2 BA Architectural Gem. Designed by student of Frank Lloyd Wright in 1950's
PETER NICOLOPOULOS
510.339.4700

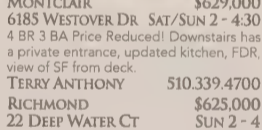


MONTCLAIR
\$795,000
SAT/SUN 2-4:30
3 BR 3 BA Sharp. Serene views, light & open + large family room.
JOAN DUFFIELD
510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES



ALAMEDA
\$644,000
SAT/SUN 1-5
3 BR 2 BA Mod Victorian. Fenced yd, full basement, great value on corner lot
www.1516LincolnAve.com
JAMES BROWN/KELLEY NAYO-CLUETT
510.339.4700



MONTCLAIR
\$629,000
SAT/SUN 2-4:30
4 BR 3 BA Price Reduced! Downstairs has a private entrance, updated kitchen, FDR, view of SF from deck
TERRY ANTHONY
510.339.4700



RICHMOND
\$625,000
SUN 2-4
3 BR 3 BA Beautiful, cathedral ceilings, frplc. Wood, tile, w/w carpet, 1BR downstairs. 2-car garage.
PARVIZ BAGHERZADEH
510.486.1495

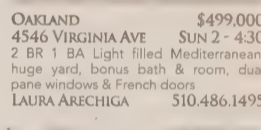


RICHMOND HILLTOP
\$599,999
SUN 2-4:30
4+ BR 3 BA Master suite w/ private balcony overlooking hills. Spacious sunroom! 2-car garage.
CJ BOYDSTON
510.339.4700

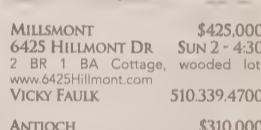


REDWOOD HEIGHTS
\$599,000
SUN 2-5
2+ BR 2 BA This contemporary townhouse-style condominium has big San Francisco Bay Views!
LYDIA NAYO
510.339.4700

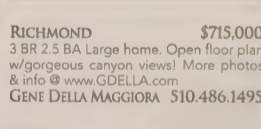
OPEN HOMES



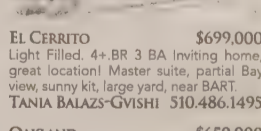
OAKLAND
\$499,000
SUN 2-4:30
2 BR 1 BA Light filled Mediterranean, huge yard, bonus bath & room, dual pane windows & French doors
LAURA ARECHIGA
510.486.1495



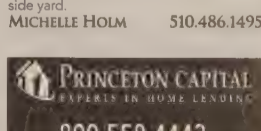
MILLSMONT
\$425,000
SUN 2-4:30
2 BR 1 BA Cottage, wooded lot, www.6425Hillmont.com
VICKY FAULK
510.339.4700



ANTIOCH
\$310,000
SUN 1-4
2 BR 2 BA Charming. Additional den Remodeled. Plantation shutters, 2 large patios, custom paint & carpet
KARA THACKER
510.339.4700



EL CERRITO
\$699,000
Light Filled. 4+ BR 3 BA Inviting home, great location! Master suite, partial Bay view, sunny kit, large yard, near BART
TANIA BALAZS-GVISHI
510.486.1495



OAKLAND
\$650,000
Triplex. 3 Charming Victorian units w/easy commute & private garden. Great for large family or investor.
LAURA ARECHIGA
510.486.1495

PINOLE
\$625,000
Views! 3+BR 2 BA Sunny, open & spacious w/Bay View. Large semi-level side yard.
MICHELLE HOLM
510.486.1495

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BERKELEY • 510.486.1495 • 1495 SHATTUCK AVENUE

OAKLAND • 510.339.4700 • 6137 LA SALLE AVENUE

Are you keeping track of the latest reale estate activity? Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto Section on D7.

Remodel

FROM PAGE B7

faucet; adding new paint or wall coverings; and replacing existing flooring recouped 98.5 percent of the job cost at resale time as a national average. In the East and West, the numbers were even higher, at 100.9 percent and 112.3 percent respectively. Bathroom remodels pay off even better. Updating a bathroom that is 25 years old with new fixtures, tub, and toilet; adding new tile, a solid surface vanity counter, ceramic floor and wallpaper recoups on average 102.2 percent.

Of course, you won't want to tackle a home improvement project solely for the resale value, especially if you intend to stay put for a while. A remodel can contribute to a better quality of living for your family while your house increases in value. "Choose an improvement that makes sense for you and your family and one that you can afford," says Maxine Sweet, vice president of public education for Experian, a global information solutions company.

To decide if a home remodeling project is right for you, make a list of features that you would like in the room to be renovated, taking into account how you and your family use the space. Consider traffic patterns, lighting and special features you'd like, such as a wet bar or walk-in shower.

Next, figure out how much you can spend on the project. You might want to consider taking out a home equity loan to finance the remodel. Because the loan is secured by your home, it will likely have a lower annual percentage rate, and you may get some tax breaks, too. The amount you can borrow is limited by the equity you have in your home. Other factors that may influence the amount you can borrow include your credit history, income and current financial responsibilities. Also, be sure to have a plan for how you will repay the loan. You don't want to put your home at risk or add too much stress to the family budget.

To make sure your financing is ready when you are, visit a credit reporting company online such as www.experian.com to quickly and

easily access your credit report. "If you notice anything questionable, such as accounts you don't recognize, or payment disputes, deal with those issues before applying for a home equity loan," says Sweet. "It can also be helpful to have your credit score which will tell you specifically the factors in your credit history that could be considered risky by lenders."

Finally, get bids from several contractors to see how your budget and the cost of your dream remodel compare. Ask friends, neighbors and co-workers for recommendations, or ask your lender if they're familiar with the contractors you're considering. Another way to check out a company is SmartBusinessReports, also available through Experian at www.experian.com. These business credit reports provide consumers with background information, comprehensive financial information and credit risk facts about the business they are considering using in an easy-to-read, online format.

As with any big project, you'll need to be flexible and not let the inevitable glitches get in the way of the

big picture — when you're done, you'll have a beautiful new space for you and your family to enjoy for years to come.

Applying for a Home Equity Loan

Here's a list of documents your lender may ask for when you apply for a home equity loan:

- Recent bank statements, both savings and checking accounts.
- A recent mortgage statement that shows the equity you've accumulated in your home.
- Current pay stubs to validate your income.
- Your most recent tax return.
- Your lender also will look at your credit report, so as you're

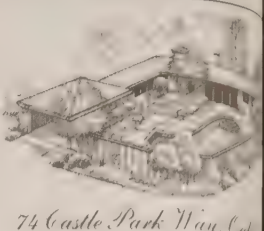
preparing to apply for a home equity loan, consider getting a copy of your personal credit report. You won't be surprised by the information your lender will use.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

coming soon

Hollywood sophistication and style! This spectacular all level home opens to a large black bottom pool and spacious patio, ideal for entertaining. Located on a quiet, exclusive street in Piedmont Pines this three bedroom, two and one half bath home is perfect for an easy lifestyle.

Offered at \$998,000



74 Castle Park Way, Cal

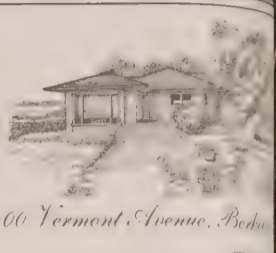
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DEBRA J. DRYDEN, CRS
BROKER ASSOCIATE
Office: 510.339.0400/208
dryden@grubbco.com

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Classic Hammarberg design, traditional California architecture. Level in entry. Spacious room proportions. Every room views nature or San Francisco Bay. Expansive lower level could be in-law apartment or imagine the endless possibilities. A very special property!

Offered at \$1,295,000



400 Vermont Avenue, Berkeley

The GRUBB Co.
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RUTH FRASSETTO
Office: 510.652.2133/414
rfrassetto@grubbco.com

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A very special home on a coveted cul-de-sac near the UC campus, with exceptional privacy and Bay views! Three bedrooms, two and one half baths, study, music room and a two-car garage.

Offered at \$995,000



1570 Olympus Avenue
Berkeley

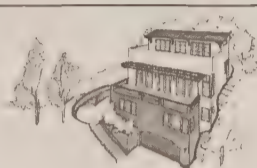
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Office: 510.652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbco.com

new listing

Build your own home! Upslope lot in the desirable Claremont Hills with approved architectural plans and permits by architect Gustave Carlson for three story, four bedroom, three and one half bathhome. Great opportunity to build and move in without the hassle of getting plans and permits through the city!

Offered at \$349,000



6967 Buckingham Boulevard
Oakland

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REALTORS

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RED OAK REALTY

New Listing!



3370 STAGE COACH DRIVE, LAFAYETTE

In a delightful gated community, this home is stately, spacious & welcoming. An imposing entry way leads to formal living & dining rooms. There is a large & sunny family room with eat-in area for everyday life. The stylish chef's kitchen with granite & cherry wood has Viking appliances. There is a laundry room & fourth bathroom and half bath downstairs. Four bedrooms (one a master suite), three baths, and study are situated upstairs & offer views of the Briones Park rolling hills. A truly desirable residence!

LISTED AT \$2,150,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 1-4 PM

Pamela Manning, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2113 WEBSITE: www.pamela-manning.com



Established 1976

RED OAK REALTY

Just Listed!



810 SAN CARLOS, ALBANY

Contractor's dream with incredible potential! This diamond in the rough features a formal living room with a fireplace, formal dining, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, amazing light, 2 car garage, huge yard and is a 1/2 a block to Solano. All it needs is a little TLC!

LISTED AT \$699,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 2-4 PM

Feri Niroomand, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2116 EMAIL: feri@redoakrealty.com



Established 1976

RED OAK REALTY

Price Reduced!



37 LAM COURT, KENSINGTON

Bright, spacious contemporary featuring 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with views & large master suite with jacuzzi tub. This stunning home includes grand 2 story entry, formal dining & living room. The sunroom, family room, fireplaces & high ceilings add to the warmth of this home. Situated on a quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops & transportation. Kensington schools.

LISTED AT \$1,265,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 1-4 PM

Tim Scully, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2146 EMAIL: agentscully@redoakrealty.com

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RED OAK REALTY

Development Opportunity

LOT	sq ft	price
428	DUP	427
426	DUP	425
		423
	DUP	421

421-423 & 425-427 LEXINGTON and 426-428 KEARNEY, EL CERRITO

3 duplexes & 1 partial lot for sale 1/2 block from El Cerrito Plaza, all contiguous. For details regarding development possibilities, go to www.kearneylexington.com

LISTED AT \$489,000 - \$489,000 - \$685,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 12-1 PM

Leif Jenssen, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2126 WEB: www.redoakrealty.com

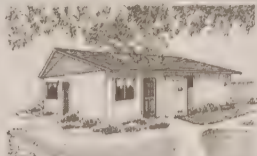


RED OAK REALTY | Homes Open Sunday

To sign up for daily email updates or for other Real Estate information, visit www.redoakrealty.com.



ALBANY - NEW! \$699,000
3/1.5 - Contractors dream! Mediterranean in the heart of Albany. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room, lots of light.
810 San Carlos Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW! \$439,000
2/1 - Sweet cottage, one of two condos in the heart of Westbrae. Generous kitchen, large private garden. Simplicity and beauty.
1315B Cornell Avenue Open 1-4:30



BERKELEY \$1,050,000
3/3.5 - Beautifully restored 1914 Tudor near Berkeley's Rose Walk with sweeping Bay views, all new baths, kitchen & deck
2577 Rose Street Open 2-4:30



LAFAYETTE - NEW! \$2,150,000
4/4.5 - Stately home in gated community. Formal dining room, chef's kitchen, pool & bbq area, verdant garden. www.pamela-manning.com
3370 Stage Coach Drive Open 1-4

OAKLAND \$370,000
2/1 - Tastefully renovated. Hardwood floors, French doors, stainless steel appliances, deck, garage, views.
CANCELED! 529 66th Street Open 2-4

OAKLAND \$439,000
1+1 - Stunning, sun-filled 1,100 sq.ft. condo in two-flat building. Living room with fireplace, large dining room, glorious garden & deck
529 66th Street Open 2-4

OAKLAND \$459,000
2/1 - Wonderful, well maintained home plus art studio. Hardwood floors, front and backyard. Near Laurel district shops & cafes.
2913 Viola Street Open 2-4

OAKLAND - NEW! \$519,000
2+1 - Totally renovated Craftsman. New foundation, roof, heating, plumbing, hardwood floors, detached loft. www.izumitada.com
879 55th Street Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$505,000
2/1 - Charming updated bungalow. Period details, fireplace, hardwood floors throughout, formal dining room, and many upgrades.
5326 Trask Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$629,000
3/2 - Large living room with fireplace, separate dining room, 2-car garage, private landscaped yard, views.
7554 Sunkist Drive Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$739,000
3/2.5 - Beautiful Montclair home has new bamboo floors & new carpet upstairs, updated kitchen with granite counters.
6670 Sobrante Road Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$1,250,000
3/3 - Fantastic 2,400 sq.ft. complete remodel with high-end finishing touches in 2004. www.charliecookproperties.com
6940 Charing Cross Road Open 2-4:30

EL CERRITO - NEW! \$499,000
2/1 - Classic 1940 with fresh paint, refinished hardwood floors, deck with wisteria covered trellis, fruit trees, attached garage. Gardeners oasis!
906 Richmond Street Open 2-4:30

EL CERRITO - NEW! \$489,000
3 DUPLEXES & LOT - Four separate parcels totaling 18,500 sq.ft. Three duplexes and a vacant lot, all contiguous. Potential mixed use development in exciting El Cerrito location 1/2 block from El Cerrito Plaza and BART. Potential changes in zoning allow for higher density, mixed use, retail, and/or commercial developments. Parcels can be purchased separately or together. Currently zoned for up to 14 units if parcels are merged.
421-423 Lexington Street Open 12-1

\$489,000
425-427 Lexington Street Open 12-1

\$685,000
426-428 Kearney Avenue Open 12-1



RICHMOND \$729,000
3/2.5 - Single family home in beautiful Breakers community. Upgraded kitchen with granite & top of the line appliances.
70 Southwind Circle Open 2-5



RICHMOND \$425,000
2/2.5 - Contemporary townhouse in desirable area. Fireplace, formal dining room, private deck. Move-in condition. Community pool & tennis.
2545 Groveview Drive Open 1:30-4:30



RICHMOND \$785,000
3/2.5 - Marina Bay home with 180° Bay & SF views. Many upgrades, landscaped front yard, 2-car garage. www.katieandmark.com
6 Seabreeze Drive Open 2-5



RICHMOND \$725,000
3/2.5 - All new Hardi Plank siding, 50-year roof, Blomberg windows, large backyard, fireplace, 2-car garage. www.katieandmark.com
11 Seabreeze Drive Open 2-5

RICHMOND \$699,000
3/3 - Spacious custom built home. Kitchen & bathroom updated with quality materials. Huge family room opens to backyard.
5200 Gordon Avenue Open 2-4:30

SAN PABLO \$585,000
4/2 - Escape the competition! San Pablo Hills house on quiet cul-de-sac. Hardwood floors, plus room, fireplace, and views.
5907 Wyman Street Open 2-4

SAN PABLO \$325,000
2/2 - Upgraded top floor condo unit with new paint and carpet, 1-car garage, 1 assigned parking space. www.katieandmark.com
4 Las Moradas Circle Open 2-4

SAN PABLO - NEW! \$399,995
3/2 - End unit townhouse ready to move in to. Large living room, private patio, inside laundry, 1-car garage. Near International Marketplace
2593A El Portal Drive Open 2:30-4:30



KENSINGTON \$1,265,000
5/3.5 - Spacious Contemporary on quiet cul-de-sac. 2-story grand entry, 2 fireplaces, sunroom, hardwood floors, views. Kensington schools.
37 Lam Court Open 1-4



PITTSBURG - NEW! \$519,000
4/2 - Spacious home in move in condition on large corner lot. Fireplace, eat-in kitchen, 2003 new roof, rumpus room. Near Los Medanos College.
3915 Meadowbrook Circle Open 2-4



HERCULES \$709,000
4/3 - Spacious view home in move-in condition. Luxurious master suite with deck, quiet court, big lot. www.bobbilumberg.com
178 Columbine Place Open 2-4

[may 21st]

by appointment



ALBANY \$579,000
3/1 - Fixer in great location. New interior paint & refinished wood floors. Detached garage. Lovely backyard. Near school & park.



BERKELEY \$599,000
2/2 - Freestanding 2-story townhome. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, living/dining room combo, family room. Spacious with lots of closet space.



OAKLAND \$569,000
DUPLEX - Very charming on Emeryville border. Lower unit has box-beam ceilings, fireplace, updated kitchen & bath. Sunny cheerful upper unit.



RICHMOND \$475,000
2/2.5 - Cape Cod townhome has master suite upstairs. Next to marina & San Francisco Bay. www.katieandmark.com

RED OAK REALTY



5907 WYMAN STREET, SAN PABLO

Discover an untapped market! Get away from the competition & come buy your next home in the San Pablo Hills. 4 bedroom, 2 bath with hardwood floors, fireplace, dual pane windows, plus room & view. All this on a quiet cul de sac.
LISTED AT \$585,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 2-4 PM

Scott Bovard, CRS

DIRECT: 510-280-2147 EMAIL: scott@scottbovard.com

Established 1976



RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com
1891 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707



RED OAK REALTY



906 RICHMOND STREET, EL CERRITO

Classic 1940 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with refinished hardwood floors, fresh paint & attached garage. Large deck with wisteria-covered trellis; private yard with exotic fruit trees: GARDENER'S OASIS. Photo tour & more information at www.redoakrealty.com
LISTED AT \$499,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 2-4:30 PM

Jeanne Lengsfelder, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2106 EMAIL: jeanne@redoakrealty.com

Muncer

FROM PAGE B4

Remove clutter; make sure lights are working. Clear out your closets to make them appear as spacious as possible. Consider emptying them altogether to let buyers decide how much, or how little, of their possessions will fit.

Offer fact sheets/brochures. Your sales associate will provide prospective homebuyers with information about the property and price. Effective take-aways may include details about the property's best features, the neighborhood and other relevant information such as proximity to shopping, the main highways, schools and recreational facilities. Photographs help prospective buyers remember the house. Previous inspection reports and a list of home improvements and new appliances and/or fixtures are also helpful.

Make yourself scarce. If you aren't there, it's easier for your sales associate to market your home and answer questions candidly. Potential buyers feel more comfortable scrutinizing a home, discussing its pluses and minuses, and talking about changes they might make to the property if its owner isn't in earshot.

It's all about volume. Real estate sales associates encourage buyers to visit a significant number of open houses. Seeing different properties can give you a much better idea of exactly what you want in a property and can also help you understand how much home you money can buy.

Communicate with your agent.

You should agree upon a plan with their sales associate before visiting open houses. Since real estate agents have access to numerous available homes, not only those with open houses, an open line of communication will enable your agent to understand which neighborhood, types of homes and even particular features are attractive to the buyer.

Take copious notes. You should take notes when attending open houses, especially when visiting multiple homes during the day. These notes, along with the marketing materials handed out at the open houses, will help narrow down the list of homes that are of interest.

Do not feel rushed. Home buying is a process that can take time. Before settling in on "the right home," learn more about the area. Make sure it meets your needs (for example, is it near a park, shopping, public transportation, and so on.) Drive around. Talk to friends and colleagues. And look to your real estate professional for his or her advice.

Both buyers and sellers can learn more about this process by going to the "Learn" section of www.coldwellbanker.com. You can download checklists that will help prepare your home for showing or evaluate homes for purchase to make the processes run as smoothly as possible.

Bev Muncer, manager of Coldwell Banker Northern California's Oakland-Piedmont office, can be reached at 510-339-4747 or at bmuncer@cbnocal.com.

All decked out

ARA

A deck can add value and usability to a home. It is one of the most basic structures in home construction, and most do-it-yourselfers have the skills to build or embellish one.

The experts at Rockler Working and Hardware, www.rockler.com, offer the following tips for creating a great outdoor space.

■ If you're starting from scratch or adding on to the existing deck, the perfect one-person tool is the Bowrench Deck Tool. It frees up your hands as it can bend several boards simultaneously, including warped boards, and it can close gaps as wide as 2-1/4 inches.

■ Conversation areas can be created and additional seating built in with the use of mounting brackets. The brackets mount directly to the deck, allowing for most configurations and easily customizing your seating arrangements.

■ Consider attractive balusters or centerpieces made from lightweight, easy-to-care-for aluminum, which offers the look and charm of wrought iron without the cost or maintenance. Balusters can be simple with clean lines like Rockler's Colonial or Classic styles or more ornate with arcs and curves in the Baroque and Arc styles. Make a statement with an attachable decorative centerpiece.

The detailing in the Classical, Vineyard, Nouveau and Fleur De Lis styles will add interest and personality to your deck. A variety of



A DECK CAN ADD value and usability to a home.

colors can match any existing deck furniture. If you want to accentuate the rustic wilderness look, a scenic balcony panel might be the solution to your deck design. Trees, elk or fighting elk scenes turn a plain deck into a majestic one.

■ Enjoy your outdoor room even in the twilight hours. Don't let the darkness chase you inside. Instead, extend your deck's open

hours with a lighting system. Simple floor-mounted systems like the In-Deck Lighting Disks system come in kits of 10 lights, are puck sized and can be walked on. For a softer lighting effect, deck lighting like the mini louvered light can be attached close to the floor on the deck posts and balusters. Made in cast aluminum, these are also maintenance free.

If you prefer your lighting at

eye level, choose lights that attach to the post. The Pyramid deck lighting the solar-lighted post can provide up to 10 hours of night.

■ Deck oil weatherizes and still allows it to Woodburst Chiselwood renews the finish and restores pressure-treated lumber.

open
sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Lovely landscaped gardens surround this elegant home in beautiful condition! Three bedrooms, three baths, formal dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen, and a two-car garage.

Offered at \$1,150,000

The GRUBB Co.
GRUBBCO.COM



1335 Contra Costa Drive
El Cerrito

BEBE MCRAE
Office: 510.652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbco.com

The GRUBB Co.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

Located on one of Crocker Highland's most coveted streets, this stately Tudor is rich in architectural detail and offers five bedrooms, three and one half baths, a finished attic room, updated kitchen, spacious family room, office, and plenty of storage. Near schools, shops, Farmers' Market.

Offered at \$1,299,000



987 Longridge Road,
Crocker Highlands



BEN KAHN

510.339.0400/310
bkahn@grubbco.com

GRUBBCO.COM

JUDY CAIN

510.339.0400/209
cain@grubbco.com



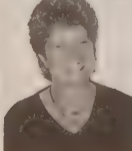
Breathtaking SF, GG, & Bay Views

Open Sunday 5/21/06 ~ 2-5 PM.

Built in 1994 by Jack Olson Designer/Contractor, this contemporary view home offers quality aesthetics - including hardwood floors and lush carpet and a large light-filled kitchen w/Corian countertops, spacious cooking island, and food warmer. Enjoy a glass of wine while watching the sunset from one of your three decks. This home is the ultimate in entertaining with an open floor plan, dramatic San Francisco and Golden Gate views. Three bedrooms, three and one-half baths, bonus room and an entertainment room. Two-car attached garage with an abundance of storage. EZ access to freeways. \$100 drawing Garibaldi's.

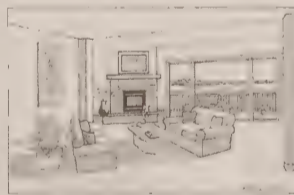
Offered at \$1,288,000 MLS# 40163745

Take a Virtual Home Tour: www.clrclp.com/home/Z94R4A or visit me at: www.sherrylong.com



Sherry Long

Real Estate Consultant
(510) 507.5664



14030 Broadway Terrace,
Montclair

KELLER WILLIAMS

First Open House 1 - 4:30pm
Sunday, May 21, 2006



Ann Sharf

Village Associates Real Estate
93 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA
925-253-2525 office
925-200-0222 cell
ann@annsharf.com
www.annsharf.com

Picturesque 1934 Traditional
with Panoramic Views.
120 Windsor Avenue, Kensington

This charming 1934 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath 1,802 s.f. Kensington traditional is located in the sought-after Windsor Avenue neighborhood within walking distance to restaurants, shops, the library and the recently completed Kensington Park. Lovingly maintained, this home is perfect for busy family living. Features include a warm formal living room with wood-burning fireplace, dual pane picture window, hardwood floors and a view of the city, a formal dining room with rich hardwood floors and Andersen sliding door, an efficient kitchen with double ovens, electric cooktop, laminate countertops, a garden window and a view of the Bay w/San Francisco in the distance, a master bedroom with hardwood floors, walk-in closet and master bath with stall shower, large bedroom/great room with fireplace, built-ins, walk-in closet, many windows and a skylight, an additional bedroom with a view and walk-in closet, non-permitted partial garage conversion is currently being used as a den/workspace, beautiful, fully fenced front and backyards professionally landscaped by Lazar Landscaping.

Offered at \$895,000



RED OAK REALTY



RED OAK
REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com
2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94611



1315-B CORNELL
BERKELEY

OPEN MAY 21st
MAY 27th & 28th
1-4:30PM

A sweet little cottage in the heart of it all. One of two condos in the very Westbrae area, this special home has a private yard perfect for picnics & grilling. 2 bedrooms with ample closets, 1 bath, a living room & generous kitchen compactly situated to make a delightful space for enjoying simplicity & style. LISTED AT \$425,000



Elizabeth McDonald, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-292-2003 EMAIL: elizabeth@redoakrealty.com

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Competitive Loan Programs

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Market is highly
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program on time.

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HOME LOAN: \$500,000.00

MONTHLY PAYMENT: \$1264.00

LOAN REQUIREMENTS: 6.721% APR; 1 year pre-payment penalty
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MAN NEWS

...need to contact the company about later in or-
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AND DAVE RUNYAN
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To order by credit card, call 800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at u-bild.com.


 Film by Heather Montague Smith

Everything old is new again

■ Baby boomers shape future housing trends by location, lifestyle

BY JESSICA SWESEY
INMAN NEWS

You've probably heard the term "halfback" in football — an offensive player who lines the backfield and carries the ball on run plays. An emerging housing trend among seniors has given "halfback" a new meaning.

The size of the baby boomer generation — roughly 78 million people born from 1946-64 — puts this generation's habits on everyone's radar. And when it comes to

boomers' retirement housing choices, "Everything old is new again," as the saying goes.

Today's seniors don't want to discuss "aging" or "retirement" in those terms and home builders have caught on — creating a burgeoning market for active adult communities that offer seniors physical activities, a sense of community and homes that will accommodate them as they age in more subtle ways than the intrusive steel railings and chair lifts built into yesterday's senior homes.

terday's senior homes.

"We do these things naturally and we don't talk about them," said Dave Schreiner, a demographics expert with Pulte Homes, referring to home design features that make it easier for seniors to move around. Pulte Homes has a separate brand for its active adult communities known as Del Webb.

Del Webb has a chain of active adult communities for the 55-and-older group, and each typically features a fitness center and golf

course, and offers residents various clubs and classes ranging from ceramics to computers to personal investing, according to a Web site description.

Baby boomers now entering their retirement years are the healthiest and wealthiest group to ever hit this life stage, though Schreiner says these seniors will place heavy emphasis on affordability when making retirement housing decisions. "People are moving in vast numbers to the Carolinas because

of affordable homes," says seniors are among them.

Owens expects a tight market in Southern cities and towns for these retiring boomers. However, many regions will see boomers as an economic development tool and start building communities with the goal of attracting them there.

And what town would boomers as residents? Good residents with good spend," Owens said

Redwood Heights Beauty 4311 Carson Street



Open Sunday from 2:00-5:00PM

Beautiful two bedroom and one bath home in Redwood Heights with a fabulous one bedroom and one bath guest cottage. Sun drenched garden, large level lawn and patio area. Endless possibilities!

For more information, go to www.4311Carson.com

Offered at \$679,000.

MONTCLAIR



Regina Jacobs
"Your Realtor"
M.B.A., GRI
510-693-7973 direct
510-339-8400 office

Top Of The World Wooded & Bay Views!

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30PM



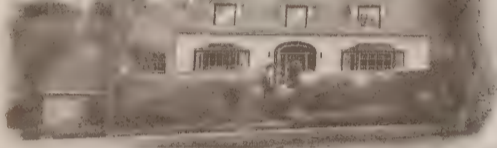
12 Westwood Court, Montclair

In the heart of Montclair & within minutes to everything and easy SF commute, this 2 BD, 2 BA Wood Cottage has been updated to perfection! Complete w/ random plank hardwood floors, vaulted open wood beamed ceiling, original architectural detailing, remodeled kitchen & great room with beautiful stucco fireplace; it offers a cozy retreat from the bustle of every day life. Grounds that span 15,000+ sq ft and offer level lawns, privacy, meandering paths, a park like setting and an abundance of mature trees and plants; its the perfect outdoor entertainer and nature lovers dream!

Offered at \$829,000

Romantic Traditional With Incredible Architectural Style and Grace!

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30PM



1888 Trestle Glen Road, Piedmont

This 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom Traditional is set amidst a gorgeous English style garden. Paths, patios decks, hot tub, lawns and mature landscaping surround the home offering privacy, room for play, and more. The formal living room is complemented by gorgeous moldings, hardwood floors, multi-paned bay and regular windows with front/side yard views, and majestic brick fireplace with oversized picture mantel. Formal dining room is complete with hardwood floors, double door entry and gorgeous detailing. The breakfast room with Spanish tile floors and built in display cabinets opens to the Kitchen and Family room and has access to the upper deck. The Master Bedroom retreat and adjacent bedroom mirror each other and offer a hide-a-way from the rest of the home. In addition the home includes a home office, sitting room, exercise/recreation room, laundry room and storage space galore.

Offered at \$1,198,000

MONTCLAIR



Please visit this fine property
at www.NahidNassiri.com



Nahid Nassiri
"Your Best Move"
510.339.4550 direct
510.339.8400 office

JUST LISTED

970 Apgar Street, Oakland 94608
\$499,000

Around the corner from the Emeryville border, you'll discover this turn-of-the-century Craftsman doll, featuring 2+ bedrooms, 1 bathroom, an eat-in kitchen with gallery pantry, formal dining room with built-ins, a cozy living room with fireplace, pocket doors and stained glass windows, plus room (suitable for office and/or guest room), hardwood floors and amazing workmanship throughout. Landscaped front and rear yards, too!

Open Sunday May 21st, 2:00 - 4:30pm

MONTCLAIR



Victor Ratto

DIRECT : (510)899-6329 EMAIL: victor@mbhr.com

MONTCLAIR



1986 Mountain Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94611
510.339.8400

1430 Leimert Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94602
510.339.4000

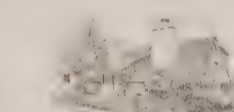
OPEN HOMES



PIEDMONT \$1,750,000
80 WILLOW AVE & 56 SYLVAN WAY
2 Houses, 2 Addresses, one great opportunity. 4bd/2ba trad. completely rebuilt from foundation to roof + newly constructed 2bd/1ba brownshingle; gourmet kitch, Brazilian cherry wood flrs. Tuscan terraced landscape separate the homes on a large lot. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Gene Ho (925)837.2200~(925)683.0932



PIEDMONT \$1,198,000
1888 TRESTLE GLEN ROAD
Romantic 4bd/2ba trad'l w/English garden, deck, hot tub & mature landscaping. Formal LR, DR, family room, master bedroom, office & recreation room. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550



NORTH BERKELEY \$1,095,000
180 TAMALPAIS
English country style home, architect designed & built in 1925. Stunning living room, 4bd/2ba, & panoramic bay views. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776



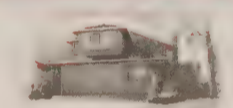
ROCKLEDGE \$995,000
525 FOREST STREET
CRAFTSMAN duplex, consider TENANTS IN COMMON ownership of two separate units: Upper unit \$450,000 lower unit \$545,000 3 car garage, close to Bart and Market Hall. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 Photos at: carolineandmichelle.com 339.8400~339.4554



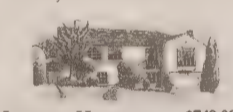
MONTCLAIR \$839,000
5870 ASCOT DRIVE
Walk to schools, beamed ceilings, all new windows, large yard for summer fun! Lovely green trees from every window. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 See tour and photos at: PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000



MONTCLAIR \$829,000
12 WESTWOOD CT.
2bd/2ba cottage in park like setting updated to perfection! Random plank flrs, vaulted ceiling, remodeled kitch & great room w/dramatic frplc, 15,000+ sq ft lot, level lawns. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550



RIDGEMONT \$815,000
4921 STONERIDGE COURT
Spacious 4bd/2.5ba w/delightful back yard garden. Selective upgrades enhance traditional quality. High ceilings, HWF's, tile, & lots of windows. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Rosemary Greene 339.8400~899.6305



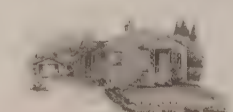
LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$749,000
4048 COOLIDGE
Lovely trad'l w/ Mediterranean touches in serene garden setting. Vaulted beam ceiling in LR, FDR, random plank flrs, 3bd/2ba, rumpus room, interior access to Grg. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 Photos at: carolineandmichelle.com 339.8400~339.4554



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$719,000
4237 DETROIT AVENUE
Updated Mediterranean with coved ceilings, hardwoods, formal dining, family room, and yard. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 See photos at: PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000



OAKMORE (LOWER) \$649,000
3973 HANLY RD
Charming 2bd plus office in Lower Oakmore. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room, Hardwood floors. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Nader Davari 339.8400~339.4566



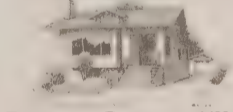
REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$679,000
4311 CARSON STREET
2bd/1ba home w/fabulous 1bd/1ba cottage. Sun drenched garden, level lawn & patio area. Please visit www.4311Carson.com OPEN SUN 2-5
Regina Jacobs 339.8400~485.5119



MAXWELL PARK \$499,000
2963 55TH AVENUE
Great location near transportation & freeways, charming 1920's w/ hardwood floors, Wedgewood stove, great yard. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 See tour and photos at: PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000



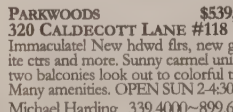
MAXWELL PARK \$499,999
4547 SAN CARLOS AVENUE
Fabulous 3bd/1+ba Bungalow. Orig architectural charm in Maxwell Park w/ FDR, living rm, fireplace, spacious kitch & breakfast nook. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Ganice Morgan Austin 339.4000~899.6395



EMERYVILLE BORDER \$499,000
970 APGAR
Sweet 2+bd/1ba Craftsman on Emeryville/Oakland border. Fresh paint in/out. Kitchen & bath updated, hardwood, new carpet. Living rm w/frplc. Formal DR, so much more! OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Victor Ratto 339.8400~899.6329



BROOKFIELD \$399,000
433 CASWELL
Excellent 1st time buyers home 2bd/2ba w/ lg office/bonus room. Refinished HWF's, upgraded kitch/bath w/tile flrs & enclosed washer/dryer. Spacious back yard. OPEN SUN 1-4
David Sykes 339.8400~339.4558



PARKWOODS \$539,000
320 CALDECOTT LANE #118
Immaculate New hwd flrs, new granite ctrs and more. Sunny corner unit w/ two balconies look out to colorful trees. Many amenities. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Michael Harding 339.4000~899.6307

KING ESTATES \$525,000
7741 STERLING DRIVE
Serene 2bd/1ba + GT Room w/beam ceiling, frplc, great for entertaining, romantic patio, FDR, HWF's, fresh kitch, w/skylight. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Joe Ashton 339.4000~899.6323

OAKLAND \$209,900TH
Charming updated 2bd/1ba on lot. New kitchen, floors, carpet, & out, updated bath, lots of space. Come see. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Robert M. Scott 339.4000~482.9000

GRAND LAKE \$364,800
4224 REINHARDT DR
Sophisticated Grand Lake 2bd/2ba, easy walking to Ave. Ave OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Jennie Lippincott 339.8400~339.4550

BERKELEY \$633,000
633 ALVARADO ROAD
4bd/3.5ba Trad'l w/vaulted ceilings, Bay views, decks & patios for entertaining. HWF's, beautiful wood cook's kitchen, FDR, rumpus room. OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$424,000
Hdwd/marble/granite flrs, Grg w/frplc, 1 bonus rm, eat-in master ste, w/ frplc & hot bathrm. Laundry, 2 car gge. Ken Nwokedi 339.8400~339.4550

MONTCLAIR \$669,000
6690 PINE NEEDLE DRIVE
Contemp. 3/3, gorgeous setting! Updated kitchen & Great rm has vaulted beam HWF's stone frplc & skylight. Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550

OAKLAND \$2509,660TH
3bd/1ba Craftsman bungalow room with fireplace, FDR, w/ Sold As Is with court confirmation. Tom Watson 339.8400~339.4550

WALNUT CREEK \$1721,000
1721 SOUTH VILLA WAY
1bd/1ba Condo. Nice end-unit room w/ sun room. New int. paint, laundry room, w/ hot tub, parking. Ken Nwokedi 339.8400~339.4550

OAKLAND \$150,000
150 PEARL STREET
Wonderful 1bd/1ba condo in area. Updated kitch & bath. Lake Merritt, shopping & more. Robert M. Scott 339.4000~899.6329

OAKLAND \$150,000
150 PEARL STREET
Wonderful 1bd/1ba condo in area. Updated kitch & bath. Lake Merritt, shopping & more. Robert M. Scott 339.4000~899.6329

OAKLAND \$150,000
150 PEARL STREET
Wonderful 1bd/1ba condo in area. Updated kitch & bath. Lake Merritt, shopping & more. Robert M. Scott 339.4000~899.6329

OAKLAND \$150,000
150 PEARL STREET
Wonderful 1bd/1ba condo in area. Updated kitch & bath. Lake Merritt, shopping & more. Robert M. Scott 339.4000~899.6329

MONTCLAIR AREA \$1,395,000
5110 CROCKETT PLACE
World class beauty. Million dollar views! Gourmet kitchen, lg family room, 2 master suites, separate 2 m guest suite. Near Montclair village shopping and regional parks. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 Photo tour @ MaryJaneMcConville.com 339.8400~339.4280

House hunting this weekend? Get a head start with the Open Home Guide starting on B24.

CROCKER HIGHLANDS



Just Listed
953 Grosvenor Place
Offered at \$1,049,000

Open Sunday
May 21 ~ 2 to 5 p.m.

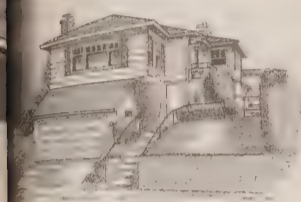
Exquisite 1927 Mediterranean of distinctive design features grand foyer and living room with vaulted ceiling, unique octagonal dining room with arched windows, 3 bedrooms, family room/in-law, 3+ baths, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors and charming vintage details inside and out.

Visit www.DoloresThom.com for photos & more information and to view all active East Bay listings.



Dolores Thom
Fine Homes Specialist
510/834-2010 Office
510/835-6080 VM
510/290-1218 Cell

CROCKER HIGHLANDS



Just Listed
1397 Barrows Road
Offered at \$689,000

Open Sunday
May 21 ~ 2 to 5 p.m.

Sweet 1940s home with split level floor plan features living room with picture window, fireplace & built-in shelves, charming upgraded kitchen and remodeled bath, hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, attached 2-car garage and a backyard. Located on a very nice and friendly street.

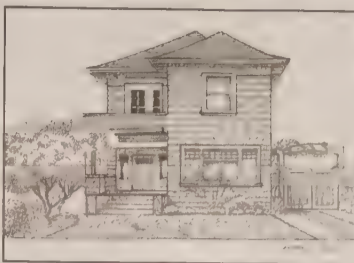
Visit www.DoloresThom.com for photos & more information and to view all active East Bay listings.



Dolores Thom
Fine Homes Specialist
510/834-2010 Office
510/835-6080 VM
510/290-1218 Cell

JUST LISTED IN THE ELMWOOD/ROCKRIDGE DISTRICT

Open Sundays May 21st and May 28th 1-4 PM



434 65th Street, Oakland

Prudential
California Realty

Beautiful turn-of-the-century Brown Shingle. Loads of original architectural details. Lovely wainscoting and refinished hardwood floors throughout the home. Freshly painted inside. Large home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, parlor, formal living room and dining room, roomy kitchen. Spacious sunroom upstairs. A must see!

Offered at \$799,000

Roy Grigsby
#1 Top Producer for 2005
510.273.9756 Voicemail
Roy.Grigsby@Prudential.com



CROCKER HIGHLANDS CHARMER



1415 Barrows Road
Oakland, CA 94611

Listed at \$749,000
Open Sunday 2-5pm

Prudential
California Realty

This wonderful Crocker Highlands home has been totally renovated but maintains the old world architectural details. Brand-new kitchen and baths, gleaming hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, new paint inside and out, new electric and plumbing. 2 great bedrooms and 2 new bathrooms make this a great opportunity for this cherished neighborhood.

Scott Thompson, Realtor®, eCertified®
510-835-6230 Voicemail
510-410-2003 Mobile
www.PiedmontRealEstate.biz
342 Highland Ave., Piedmont



Prudential
California Realty

FEATURED HOMES



BERKELEY
Piedmont 1-Level! \$1,195,000
Millad, sophisticated contemporary.
Rockridge BART, shops, 3BR/2BA.
Luhman (510) 915-7207



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$1,049,000
953 Grosvenor, Grand Crocker Highlands. Medit.
3+BR/3+BA, 1st time on market in 40+ years!
Dolores Thom (510) 834-2010



BERKELEY
Sat & Sun 2-5 \$648,000
3035 Ellis. Two BR/2BA, den, din. rm, attic in
Ashby arts district.
Nancy Taussig (510) 845-0211



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$589,000
4536 Tompkins. In-law potential. 2+BR/1+BA.
Updated w/lg. yard & hot tub.
Anita Becker & Lisa Pino (510) 868-1554



RICHMOND
Sunday 2-5 \$489,000
5036 Clinton. 3BR/1BA on corner lot.
Updated, HWF, FP, super cute.
Anita Becker & Lisa Pino (510) 868-1400



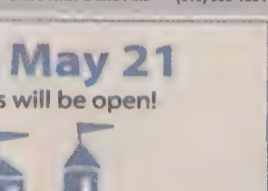
OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4:30 \$2,600,000
1200 Skyline Blvd. Private 4+BR/5BA
Mediterranean villa w/piano Bay views.
Marchessault (510) 339-9290



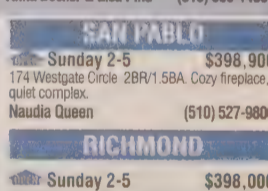
OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$595,000
4121 Laurel Ave. 2BR/1BA plus office & studio
bung w/a view of Bay. Remod. kitchen, FPL
and hwd floors.
Pics at <http://client.imprev.net/10850/9234>.
Janesta (510) 868-1563



BERKELEY
Sunday 2-4 \$579,000
3884 Rhoda. Cute 3BR/2BA, FDR, HWF, 2-car
grg, FPL, yard, 3-yr. roof.
Cynthia Zheng (510) 845-0211



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4:30 \$549,900
3687 Madrone Avenue. Lovely 2+BR/1BA
Laurel oasis! New listing!
Vikki Landes (510) 339-9290



RICHMOND
Sunday 2-5 \$398,000
36 Duboce. New house built in 2004. 3BR/2BA.
Beautiful.
Naudia Queen (510) 527-9800



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$749,000
Barrows. New kitchen, shiny hwd flrs.
Crocker Highlands.
Thompson (510) 428-0900



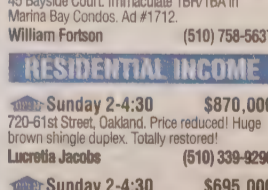
OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$540,000
8072 Winthrop. Gorgeous 3BR/2BA, gifts &
drawing for Florida vacation.
Truc Van (510) 834-2010



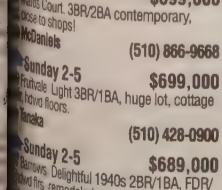
BERKELEY
Sunday 2-4 \$499,000
7817 Greenly Drive. Sweet 2+BR/1BA starter
w/large, private lot!
Lucretia Jacobs (510) 339-9290



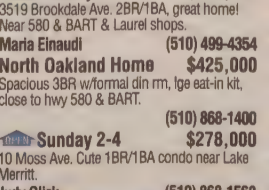
OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4 \$445,000
Great 2BR/2BA condo near grand lake. Close
to BART/Low HOA, 1000+SF.
Lake Merritt (510) 851-9888



RICHMOND
Sunday 2-4 \$375,000
45 Bayside Court. Immaculate 1BR/1BA in
Marina Bay Condos. Ad #1712.
William Fortson (510) 758-5637



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4 \$699,000
Fruitvale. Light 3BR/1BA, huge lot, cottage
w/hdwd flrs.
Tanska (510) 428-0900



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$689,000
Barrows. Delightful 1940s 2BR/1BA, FDR/
hwd flrs, remodeled.
Wong (510) 834-2010



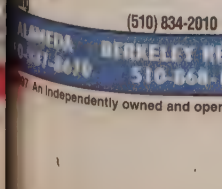
BERKELEY
Sunday 2-4 \$439,000
3519 Brookdale Ave. 2BR/1BA, great home!
Near 580 & BART & Laurel shops.
Maria Elnaudi (510) 499-4354



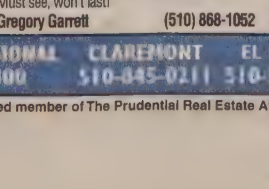
OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4 \$425,000
Spacious 3BR w/formal din rm, lge eat-in kit,
close to hwy 580 & BART.
TamiBobb.com (510) 868-1400



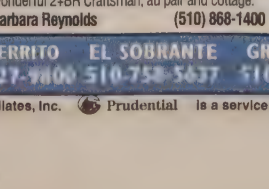
RICHMOND
Sunday 2-4 \$278,000
10 Moss Ave. Cute 1BR/1BA condo near Lake
Merritt.
Judy Glick (510) 868-1568



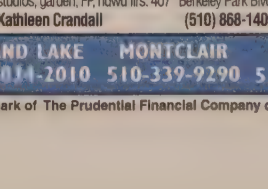
ALAMEDA
Sunday 12-4:30 \$546,000
1152 Admiralty Ln. 3BR/1BA. Motivated seller.
Must see, won't last!
Gregory Garrett (510) 868-1052



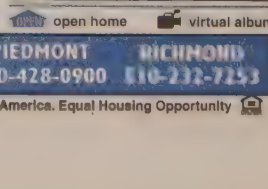
ALAMEDA
Sunday 2-4 \$439,000
2970 Shasta Road. SF and Golden Gate views.
4BR/2BA, family room, private yard and patio.
Janesta (510) 868-1563



BERKELEY
Sunday 2-4:30 \$925,000
Ultimate Rossmoor condo. See tour at
www.PruRealty.com/NancyBlom.
Nancy Blom (510) 610-6126



BERKELEY
Sunday 1-4 \$375,000
771 San Luis Rd. 1BR/1BA TIC w/view of SF & GG
Bridge.
CP Yang (510) 834-2010



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Priced To Sell Fast \$569,000
Ultimate Rossmoor condo. See tour at
www.PruRealty.com/NancyBlom.
Nancy Blom (510) 610-6126

Owning a home makes good sense

There's no time like the present to take the first step

BY JEFF BROWN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Owning your own home is a good long-term financial goal. But there are some questions to answer in deciding whether this is the best time.

To skip ahead a second: How much home could you afford?

As a general rule, home buyers

Mortgage rates are relatively low by historical standards. Home prices may not keep rising at the torrid rates of the past few years, but if you plan to keep your home for five or 10 years, or more, I wouldn't worry too much about losing money.

are limited to mortgages that require monthly payments no greater than 28 percent of their gross income, which is what one makes before taxes are deducted.

The payment includes interest, taxes and insurance as well as principal, which is the portion of the loan repaid each month.

Making \$5,000 a month, you could afford a monthly payment of about \$1,400. With a 30-year, fixed-rate loan charging a little over 6 percent — the going rate these days — you could borrow nearly \$220,000 and have a \$1,400 payment.

This assumes you don't have any other debts. Lenders usually don't want the borrower's total payments for mortgage, car and student loans, credit card bills and other debts to come to more than 36 percent of one's income.

Obviously, if you and your fiancé pool your money, you can afford a bigger mortgage. Try the tools at www.dinkytown.net.

Over the long term, owning a home does make financial sense. With a fixed-rate mortgage, your monthly principal and interest payments will stay the same for the life of the loan — usually 15 to 30 years, unless you sell the property or pay the debt off sooner.

Though taxes and homeowner's insurance costs will likely go up over time, principal and interest are the biggest part of the payment. So your total housing cost would take an ever-smaller share of your income, assuming you earn more as the years go by.

Also, the interest portion of the monthly payment will be deductible on your federal income tax return.

With a \$1,400 payment, about \$1,100 would be interest during the first year. If your tax rate is 25 percent, this deduction would save you \$275

a month in income tax. In effect, your monthly payment would be \$1,125, not \$1,400. (Property tax is deductible; insurance payments are not.)

Compare all this to renting. There's no tax deduction for renters. And rent is likely to go up year after year, while the lion's share of a mortgage payment would stay the same.

Also, homeowners gradually build equity, or monetary value, as they pay down their debt and their homes go up in value. As an owner, you'd be likely to have hundreds of thousands of dollars in equity in 10 or 20 years. As a renter, you'd have none.

On the other hand, renters usually don't have the maintenance and repair costs that homeowners face.

WHAT CAN YOU AFFORD?

Making \$5,000 a month, you could afford a monthly payment of about \$1,400. With a 30-year, fixed-rate loan charging a little over 6 percent — the going rate these days — you could borrow nearly \$220,000 and have a \$1,400 payment.

And renters don't live with the cost and hassle of selling when they want to move.

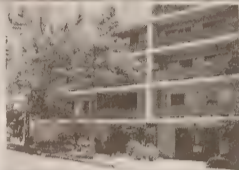
Selling a home usually entails paying a real estate agent's commission of 5 percent or 6 percent of the home's sales price.

If you think you'd want to move in five years or less, then renting

See OWNING, Page B16

www.GENEBOOMER.com

Just Listed
Open Sat/Sun
May 20 & 21
2-4:30pm



424 Staten, #305

\$360,000

Sunny top floor condo. 1BD/1BA. Updated kitchen w/granite counters. Remodeled bath. Teak laminate floors throughout. Large balcony, secure parking.

"The Real
Baby Boomers
Realtor"



www.GeneBoomer.com

Prudential California Realty

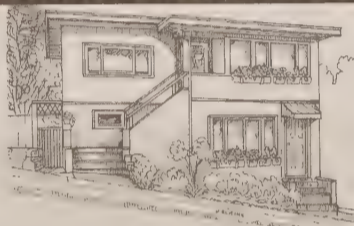
2077 Mountain Blvd., Oakland CA



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"I provide direct, supportive and ethical service to fun, positive and motivated Sellers and Buyers"

THE DONALD TRUMP STARTER IN GLENVIEW



1776 Excelsior, Glenview
Open Sunday, 2-4:30

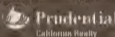
If you're one of those who would like to build wealth in real estate like some other big names, this would be a great place to start. Right on the edge of Glenview, where you'll find this charming 2-bedroom home with a 1-bedroom and a studio apartment to support you. And who knows. Glenview, this year. Manhattan, next!

Offered at \$695,000

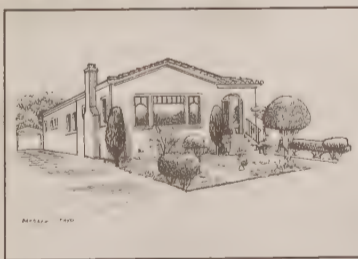
"Top Producer, Berkeley/Oakland"

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BARBARA REYNOLDS



JUST SOLD - CHARMING OAKLAND BUNGALOW



6623 Deakin Street,
Oakland



Originally offered
at \$519,000

Sold with multiple
offers

I Represented the
Seller

Roy Grigsby

#1 Top Producer for 2005

510.273.9756 Voicemail

Roy.Grigsby@Prurealty.com



PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT



2808 Hilgard Avenue, North Berkeley

INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! Bring your skills and vision to this unique hillside fixer with strong bones, enormous potential, coveted Northside neighborhood, and spectacular views from every room. 3BR, 2BA, plus 2 room au pair lair. New lift proposal available. View SeeMore tour at www.pacunion.com/gini/erck

Gini Erck

510.338.1339

Offered at \$995,000

gerck@pacunion.com

DON'T MISS THE WEEKLY SALES IN THE AUTO SECTION ON D

www.HomesByHeidi.com



6037 Skyline Blvd.

Offered at: \$2,600,000



New Listing!
Open Sunday 2-4:30

Private 4+ Bedroom Mediterranean Villa with panoramic bay city and bridge views. soaring ceilings, extended doors, 5400 sq. ft. on two levels with an elevator from the garage to the professional kitchen. Loaded to the brim with amenities from media storage and decks to a true one-of-a-kind!

Heidi Marchesotti
Fine Homes Specialist
#1 Producer
(510) 387-7865 Cell
(510) 869-4243 Voice Mail

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

WORLD CLASS BAY VIEWS

Twilight Tour SAT. MAY 20, 6:30-8:30PM
OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2-5 PM

Will be yours from almost every room of this "BRAND NEW" Modern Art Style Contemporary. Featuring magnificent open living and dining areas with huge terraces. State-of-the-art kitchen, media room, Gym, heated outdoor loggia. 4+BR 4.5 BA. Approx. 4000 sq. ft. of luxury at the top of the Claremont Hills.



Fritz Hochfellner

510.338.1348

7111 Norfolk Road
Offered at \$2,495,000

www.fritzsellshome.com

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2-4:30PM



City Living at Its Best! Great Craftsman home built in 1920s has wonderful architectural details, tall ceilings, wainscoting, a rare nook, hardwood floors and 2.5 bathrooms. The home has been used as a 1/1+1/1 duplex. Good potential for home 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, year garage, and neighborhood.



Joan Dark

510.338.1316

177 Ridgeway Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$725,000

www.pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

ADORABLE CALIFORNIA BUNGALOW IN LAUREL

OPEN SUNDAY MAY 21, 2-4:30
TWILIGHT TOUR WED. MAY 24, 6-8:30PM

This charming home in the desirable Laurel District of Oakland offers a cozy and comfortable floor plan with good light. Beautiful hardwood floors grace the living room, two bedrooms and hallway...The spacious eat-in-kitchen is a delight for the seasoned gourmet chef or a quiet morning with a cup of coffee and the newspaper. If you like to garden or enjoy a peaceful day in the yard, the front and rear yards are the place to be. The landscaping is truly lovely. Close to transportation to the Fruitvale BART Station, shopping or a quick walk to one of the coffee shops in Laurel. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity. This home is a real catch!



Diane E. McCan

510.338.1352

REDWOOD HEIGHTS &
LAUREL DISTRICT SPECIALIST

www.dianemccan.com



3634 California St., Oakland
Offered at \$499,000

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

STUNNING MEDITERRANEAN IN DESIRABLE REDWOOD HILLS

OPEN SUNDAY MAY 21, 2-4:30

Stunning Mediterranean with distinct architectural details throughout. 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with additional bonus rooms. Includes beamed ceilings, coves, gorgeous hardwoods and original light fixtures. Great Garden!



Jane Strauch

510.338.1332

3585 Monterey Street, Oakland
Offered at \$729,000



PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

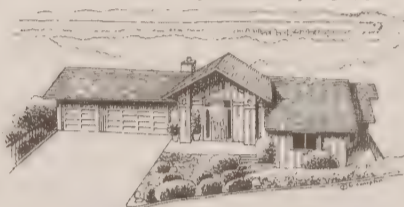
NEW LISTING IN ROCKRIDGE OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2-5PM



5578 Lawton Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$1,690,000

Country Italian living in the heart of Rockridge! Luxuriously remodeled and expanded in 2001, this handsome three story home offers traditional elegance and state-of-the-art amenities two blocks from BART, Market Hall, and all the pleasures of College Ave. There are 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, a family room, exercise room, wine cellar and garden office/studio.

NEW LISTING IN MONTCLAIR OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2-5PM



6720 Elverton Drive, Oakland
Offered at \$1,599,000

Drive up the private driveway and prepare to be amazed! This beautiful, contemporary home with its bright, open floor plan has one of the TRULY GREAT 3-BRIDGE VIEWS IN MONTCLAIR! The dramatic entry leads to a Living Room and Dining Area with vaulted ceilings; a gorgeous, eat-in Kitchen; a Family Room; 4 Bedrooms; an Office; 3 Full Baths; 2 Fireplaces; many Custom Built-Ins AND a 3-Car Attached Garage with Lots More Parking.

NEW LISTING IN REDWOOD HEIGHTS OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2-4:30PM



3664 Monterey Boulevard, Oakland
Offered at \$795,000

Stately Prairie Style Traditional in desirable Redwood Heights! A winning combination of filtered Bay views, Architectural integrity, bold light-filled rooms, and a private backyard with mature rose garden, large flagstone patio and outdoor fireplace. This handsome 2-story home has 3 bedrooms, a den, plus room, 1.5 baths, great storage and a 2-car garage.

NEW LISTING IN CROCKER HIGHLANDS OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2-4:30PM



1421 Barrows Road, Oakland
Offered at \$789,000

This wonderful traditional home features a multitude of appealing details. A separate living and dining room with crown molding all painted in beautiful designer colors permits ample space for entertaining and relaxing around the fireplace. The sensibly arranged kitchen offers a wonderful eat-in breakfast area which opens out to the backyard. Conveniently located near the Lakeshore and Glenview neighborhoods offering a plethora of entertainment, food, shopping and commuting options.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

OAKLAND HILLS \$4,325,000
4615 ROCKINGHAM CT.
Hillmark of modern art and workmanship. Spectacular 4 bridge views. Grand courtyard. Quiet cul-de-sac. Sumptuous theater and wine cellar. David Ichikawa x1331



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,500,000
3935 MANCHESTER AVE.
Wonderful 4+BR/4+BA Traditional w/fabulous GG views. Master bedroom w/fireplace, billiard room w/fireplace & 50's style soda fountain, separate library, beautiful gardens. Francis Heath x1357

CLAREMONT HILLS \$2,495,000
7111 NORFOLK RD.
(Open 2-5)
World Class Bay Views from almost every room of this BRAND NEW modern art style contemporary. Open living & dining areas, state-of-the-art kitchen, approx. 4000 sq. ft. Fritz Hochfeller x1348

MONTCLAIR \$1,930,000
111 OBSERVATION PL.
Recent contemporary home on prestigious Observation Place. Outstanding craftsmanship. Stunning Bay views. Level yard. David Ichikawa x1331



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,725,000
5234 COCHRANE
Quiet, contemporary on prime street. Uplifting design with high ceilings and generous spaces. 4+BR/2+BA, family room with fireplace, large kitchen, breakfast area. Keith Tollas x1382

PT. RICHMOND \$1,695,000
54 BELVEDERE AVE.
Beautifully remodeled waterfront property. Fabulous views of San Francisco, Angel Island, Mt. Tam & across the Bay. Great flow from inside to outside. New kitchen & baths. Donna DeBardi x1374



PIEDMONT \$1,395,000
15 LITTLEWOOD DR.
New contemporary, built around a pool & patio, in the heart of Piedmont. 4BR, 2.5BA, huge family room on one level, 2 bonus rooms downstairs, work-out room, garage access. Bonnie Hirsch x1337

ROCKRIDGE \$1,150,000
5836 LAWTON AVE.
Quintessential Craftsman! Built-ins in living room, dining room and study. Kitchen/family room. Sunny deck and lawn. 3 bedrooms, 2 remodeled baths! Lorna Arazi x1330

ADAMS POINT \$1,100,000
361 WARWICK AVE.
Beautifully restored grand craftsman home. Gracious foyer, parlor, living room with fireplace & formal dining room. New chef's kitchen. 5BR, 3 new full baths. Erika Celestre x1370



OAKMORE \$1,095,000
1609 LEIMERT BLVD.
1937 home surrounded by attractive gardens. Bay views! 4BR, 3.5BA, formal dining room, remodeled kitchen & master bath, office/rumpus room, bonus room, decks, level yard area. Donna Costella x1355



SAN LEANDRO \$999,000
2466 MARINEVIEW DR. (open 1-4)
Extensively remodeled 3BR, 2.5BA home in Bay-O-Vista neighborhood. Fabulous kitchen & baths, family room, master suite with walk-in closet & luxurious baths. Candy Benny x1328



PIEDMONT \$915,000
331 MAGNOLIA AVE.
New Listing. Living room with vaulted ceiling, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, 2BR/1BA, possible expansion area. Med. Charm. Robyn Mohr x1310

MONTCLAIR \$895,000
1827 WOODHAVEN WY.
Nestled in Redwoods just a half block from Montclair Swim Club, this home boasts 3BR, 3 full BA, formal dining area & eat-in kitchen opening to private patio & wooded yard. Helen Danhaki x1356

ROCKRIDGE \$879,000
6019 HILLEGASS AVE.
Craftsman style 3BR/2BA 1920's home with full in-law Great separation of space. Large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen with nook. Rich Gould x1347 & Joanna Gould x1346



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$829,500
4845 GERANIUM PL. (Open 2-5)
Enjoy the views, privacy and spacious all level living in the Oakland Hills. Up a private driveway, this home can facilitate formal entertaining or quiet evenings. Ashley O'Neill x1368

OAKLAND HILLS \$739,000
4682 REDWOOD RD.
Sought after & seldom available Leona Villa townhome. Upgrades! Living room with fireplace. Large master suite plus 2 more bedrooms & 2.5 baths. 2-car garage. Bob Nelson x1345

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$729,000
3585 MONTEREY BLVD.
Storybook Mediterranean with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and original light fixtures and hardware. Full basement with lots of extras. Jane Strauch x1332

MONTCLAIR \$725,000
6845 THORNHILL DR.
Contemporary Tahoe-style home in wooded setting, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, plus studio with separate entrance. Large master suite. New paint & carpet, hardwood floors. Lori Lombardo x1377

PIEDMONT AVENUE \$725,000
177 RIDGEWAY AVE.
Great Craftsman in sought-after neighborhood. Built in 1913. Beautiful architectural details including tall ceilings, wainscoting, an inglenook, hardwood floors, and two fireplaces. Joan Dark x1316

BERKELEY \$719,000
1119 CARYLETON ST.
3BR, 2BA craftsman/period detail. Hardwood floors, natural wood built-ins, fireplace, master suite opening to gardener's paradise, and country kitchen w/wedgewood stove. Great location. Dan Joy x1304

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$689,500
4457 REINHARDT DR.
Charming 3BR/2BA traditional with bay views, newly refinished hardwood floors, newer roof & freshly painted. Wonderful architectural details. A gardener's delight. Dwight McCan x1391

ROCKRIDGE \$689,000
355 GLENDALE AVE.
This light-filled 2+BR, 1BA bungalow has the architectural details of another era. Custom wood work, a formal dining room, an eat-in kitchen, and a spacious backyard. Martha Holstlav x1312

BERKELEY \$650,000
2430 5TH ST. #B
Fabulous, sun-filled 3-level live-work condominium. 2+ bedrooms, 2+ baths. Soaring ceilings. Dramatic! Nancy Noman x1373

PIEDMONT AVENUE \$649,000
4488 MORAGA AVE.
Classic 1920's bungalow with untarnished original details. 2BR/1BA, large formal dining room, eat-in kitchen & a fantastic deck. Updated bath, refinished hardwood floors. Ann Nichols x1319



UPPER FRUITVALE \$629,000
3668 FRUITVALE AVE. (open 2-5)
Stylish traditional with open, split-level floor plan. Living room, dining room with built-in hutch. Hardwood floors. Eat-in kitchen. Updated bath. Rear patio. Landscaped, terraced yard. Christian Downer x1340

BERKELEY \$599,000
949 WALLSTON WY.
New listing! Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath with in-law, garden and workshop. Close to 4th Street and Marina. Sheila Gallagher x1383



LOWER ROCKRIDGE \$599,000
491 MCAULEY ST.
Located near shopping & BART. Updated & remodeled 3BR/2BA turn of the century cottage. Master bedroom opens to a wonderful garden & patio. Refinished hardwood floors. Leslie Avant x1341

OAKLAND HILLS \$599,000
6417 SUNNYMERE AVE. (Open 1-5)
This large property boasts a white picket fence with an arbor & a covered front patio. 3BR, 2BA, separate office, updated kitchen, large family room, attached garage. Jennie Flanagan x1354

PIEDMONT \$595,000
Magnificent residence designed by Willis Polk in the Beaux Arts style. Approx 1.5 acres with European-style gardens & swimming pool. 5+BR/5+BA. Georgia Cornell x1325 & Nancy Rothman 510-701-0230

PIEDMONT \$3,550,000
An architectural treasure - magnificent John Hudson Thomas with intricate and refined period detailing. Rich, warm wood finishes. Elegant formal rooms, 6+BR, 5+BA, family room. Georgia Cornell x1325

MONTCLAIR \$1,200,000
Spread low & wide across over 1/3 acre, this enchanting 1940 Hacienda offers glorious Bay & SF views, secluded, park-like gardens, and a generous 9 room plan. 4BR/3BA. Gini Erick x1339

TEMESCAL \$549,000
4415 SHAFTER AVE. (Open Sat & Sun)
This c. 1920 bungalow shines with dramatic bold colors and wonderful details. Spacious updated kitchen with high ceilings and skylight. Dan Joy x1304

LAKESHORE \$525,000
322 HANOVER AVE. #413
Beautiful 2BR, 2BA condo with stunning views of Lake Merritt & downtown Oakland. Located on the 4th floor. Hardwood floors. Updated kitchen. Jennie Flanagan x1354



LAUREL \$499,000
3634 CALIFORNIA ST.
Charming home with cozy floor plan, good light & privacy. Hardwood floors in living room, two bedrooms & hallway. Eat-in kitchen. Landscaping in front & rear yards. Diane Earl McCan x1352

NORTH OAKLAND \$499,000
583 59TH ST.
Two bedroom condo with high-end finishes. Granite kitchen with stainless appliances. Great floorplan for entertaining guests. Tom Nemeth x1381

EMERYVILLE \$478,000
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Light-filled, freshly painted 2 bedroom unit with beautiful bay views, balcony and an updated bath. Nancy Chew x1342

ROCKRIDGE \$475,000-\$485,000
320 51ST ST. A, B, C, D
Remodeled 1BR condos, each with its own laundry & garage. New kitchens, baths, hardwood floors. Full of light and sunshine. Vibrant College Avenue just around the corner. Leslie Easterday x1363

BY APPOINTMENT

NORTH BERKELEY \$995,000
This unique Northside VIEW acre invites the energy & vision of a very special buyer. 3BR/2BA + 2 room office/au pair. See More at www.pacunion.com/ginierck. Gini Erick x1339

MONTCLAIR \$869,000
Sunny custom Montclair home. 3BR, 3BA, master suite. 2 Fireplaces. Formal dining room. Family room off kitchen. Large lot. Sunny yard. Detached 2-car garage. Wendy Gardner x1303

DIMOND \$639,000
Oakland Hills Views. 2-story Craftsman 4BR, 1BA. Living & dining rooms with built-in bookcases, hardwood floors, dining room hutch & grand fireplace. Jennie Flanagan x1354



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Earthquake preparedness is shaky most of the time

BY SUE HUTCHISON
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

The last time I checked the coat closet where I keep our earthquake crisis kit, I counted 11 gallon-bottles of water and about five packs of D and AAA batteries. I have a lot of other things in the kit, but I have become compulsive about checking the water and battery supply to make sure they're "fresh."

Of course, I don't have any idea how fresh the water and batteries need to be, nor have I written dates on the supplies that I have. So I just keep throwing another bottle or battery four-pack into the closet and hope for the best. This seems to mirror the attitude so many of us have about the major catastrophe that geologists say is virtually guaranteed to befall us sometime in the next 30 years: *Worry about it to distract*

tion for a few hours or a few days. And then forget about it entirely.

After being bombarded with stories of the Great Quake that ripped San Francisco apart at the seams one century ago, I have gone through a phase of born-again earthquake preparedness.

My last born-again phase was in the days after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. That's when I got the work gloves and weather radio that I had been putting off adding to our earthquake kit. That's also when I remembered that I'd sneaked into our ration of peanut butter — a major weakness of mine — and eaten most of it.

Then I went back to my usual state of earthquake denial.

It's difficult to explain to people who don't live here how having the constant threat of your home and your entire neighborhood be-

ing shaken down around your ears is just something you come to accept. It's almost hilarious to think about how much we obsess over real estate out here when there's a decent chance it may be reduced to rubble before the 30-year mortgage is paid.

During a recent trip to the Oakland Museum of California, which has an exhibit commemorating the 1906 quake, I was amazed to see the photos of the breadth of the destruction. On the front page of the April 19, 1906 Oakland Herald, there were so many tales of mayhem in San Francisco that you might have missed the small story tucked onto the bottom corner of the page. "Streets on San Jose Are Filled With Dead," the headline reads. "Stanford is in Ruins."

See EARTHQUAKE, Page B18

After being bombarded with stories of the Great Quake that ripped San Francisco apart at the seams one century ago, I have gone through a phase of born-again earthquake preparedness. My last born-again phase was in the days after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Owning

FROM PAGE B14

would take an ever-smaller share of your income, assuming you earn more as the years go by. Also, the interest portion of the monthly payment will be deductible on your federal income tax return.

With a \$1,400 payment, about \$1,100 would be interest during the first year. If your tax rate is 25 percent, this deduction would save you \$275 a month in income tax. In effect, your monthly payment would be \$1,125, not \$1,400. (Property tax is also deductible; insurance payments are not.)

Compare all this to renting. There's no tax deduction for renters. And rent is likely to go up year after year, while the lion's

share of a mortgage payment would stay the same.

Also, homeowners gradually build equity, or monetary value, as they pay down their debt. As their homes go up in value, as hundreds of thousands of dollars in equity in 10 or 20 years, as a renter, you'd have none.

On the other hand, renting usually don't have the maintenance and repair costs that homeowners do. And renters don't live with the cost and hassle of selling when they want to move.

Selling a home usually means paying a real estate agent a commission of 5 percent or 6 percent of the home's sales price.

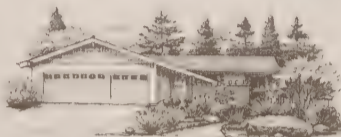
If you think you'd want to move in five years or less, you

See OWNING, Page B18

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. All level contemporary remodeled in the spirit of casual elegance. Large level yard surrounded by a miniature forest. Dramatic arches and cherry floors. Three-car garage.

Offered at \$775,000



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New Price is \$689,500

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5935 Manchester Avenue
Offered at \$2,500,000

Francis Heath

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55 Oakwood Drive, Orinda - Open Sunday, May 21st 1-4pm



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Offered at \$629,000

Christian Downer

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4845 Geranium Place, Oakland
Offered at \$829,500

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Ashley O'Neill

510.338.1368

Ashley.O'Neill@pacunion.com

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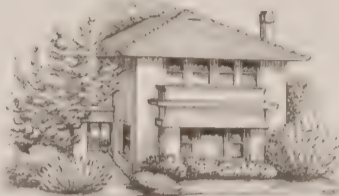
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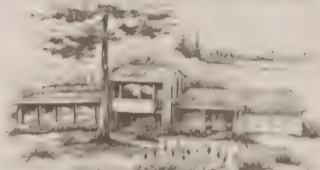
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340 JAYNE \$885,000
Adams Point. Originally a grand home of five plus bedrooms. Now a spacious 4-plex which units could easily be combined to create a great owner's unit. Three units delivered vacant! Reports available.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



3882 SHAFTER AVENUE \$598,000
Lower Temescal. Charming turn of the century farmhouse with a wonderful garden. There are two bedrooms, one bathroom upstairs and a non-conforming one bedroom unit downstairs. Near BART, Kaiser Hospital, and Piedmont Avenue. Large lot, great potential.

Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000 x204



3845 MADELINE STREET \$595,000
Laurel. Stylish bungalow with tasteful updates in eat-in kitchen and downstairs. Enjoy having a new foundation, central heat, dual paneled windows, DSL installed, refinished hardwood floors and fresh paint in lovely colors. Both front and back yards are beautifully landscaped for relaxation or play.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292



3133 E. 19TH AVENUE \$499,000
Oakland. Great investment opportunity one bedroom, one bath duplex. Minutes to Lake Merritt Bakery. Eat-in kitchen, small yard in rear and large unfinished basement-perfect for a workshop.

Beth DeAtley 531-7000 x234

ANTIOCH

PRICE REDUCTION

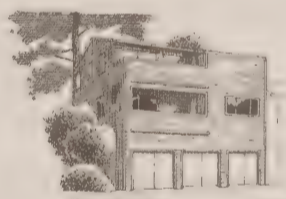
5225 FAIRSIDE WAY

\$495,000

Hillcrest. Come see this simply stunning three bedroom, two bath home in Antioch featuring a gorgeous gourmet kitchen, landscaped front yard, and wonderful open floor plan. Don't miss this one!

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Elisa Uribe 531-7000 x272



819 EAST 28TH STREET

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2222 57th AVENUE

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Open House Saturday 1:00pm-3:00pm

Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262

BY APPOINTMENT



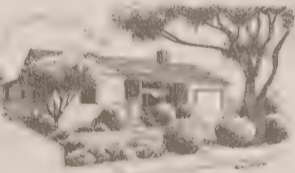
STUNNING TUDOR

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Maxwell Park. Stunning Tudor with architectural detail and charm on great street! Spacious three bedroom, one and a half baths, living room with Mahogany trim, elegant fireplace and view, new gourmet kitchen with slate floor and cherry cabinets, great landscaped yard and Redwood deck, two-car garage, many upgrades!

www.4627allendale.com

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228



SAN LEANDRO

CHARMING BUNGALOW

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FOUR PLEX

\$885,000

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FIVE LARGE TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS \$850,000

Oakland. Spacious kitchens, central heating, common laundry room, separately metered, generating \$61,000/year. Priced to sell.

Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

VICTORIAN FOUR PLEX \$825,000

Oakland. Three blocks from Jack London Square. Ideal setting for professional office or live-work. Several upgrades completed.

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Beth DeAtley 531-7006 x234

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House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first.

Bankruptcy and foreclosure

How the law impacts homeowners

BY G.M. FILISKO
INMAN NEWS

The bankruptcy law that took effect Oct. 17, 2005, included many provisions that affect both residential and commercial real estate. But whether the real estate market overall will benefit from the changes to bankruptcy law is debatable, in part because some kinks still need to be worked out, and also because fewer bankruptcies are being filed because consumers appear to be confused about whether they can still file for bankruptcy at all.

"There was this huge rush of bankruptcy filings before the new law took effect," said Thomas S. Linde, an attorney with the Law Offices of Karen L. Gibbon, P.S. in Seattle, who specializes in real es-

tate law and representing creditors in bankruptcy. "But the new law turned off the water, and filings trickled down to nothing in Washington state. People aren't aware that bankruptcy is an option for them. They think the new law closed the door to them, and that's not true. What Congress has done is imposed more requirements to get a bankruptcy discharge. It's more onerous, but that doesn't mean you can't do it."

Robert Nelson, a bankruptcy attorney with Van Cott Bagley in Salt Lake City, agreed that the new bankruptcy law has complicated personal bankruptcy filings. "The volume of filing in this jurisdiction has dropped by 80 percent," he said.

One big yet unresolved issue for homeowners is whether the new law will result in more homeowners losing their homes to foreclosure.

Under the new law, homeowners who are in arrears on their mortgage can't wait until the last minute to file for bankruptcy — as many people do — to stop foreclosure (in legalese, it's called "staying" the foreclosure).

"Before, bankruptcy was a last-minute thing," Linde said. "If you were in foreclosure, you could file right before the foreclosure sale," and in some cases stop the sale, he said. "Now, if you're on the eve of foreclosure, it may be difficult to file if you wait until the last minute."

That's because a new provision requires that people filing for bank-

ruptcy must undergo credit counseling before or within five days after filing their bankruptcy petition. To show you've complied with that requirement, you have to file a certificate with the bankruptcy petition stating that you've completed an approved credit-counseling course.

According to Linde: "The policy was to see if people could qualify for something short of bankruptcy, say, could they work a deal with creditors?" The counseling isn't onerous, he says, and can often be completed in less than an hour online or by telephone, but it still must be arranged and completed, which can create delays for homeowners who need an immediate stay from a foreclosure action.

See BANKRUPT, Page B19

Earthquake

FROM PAGE B18

This reminded me of another small story tucked away into the Mercury News this month, reporting that there are more than 2,600 so-called "soft-story buildings" in Santa Clara County alone that are especially vulnerable in a major earthquake.

These are multi-story buildings that have garages on the first story with only narrow poles supporting the weight of the building, instead of thick walls. It's estimated that about 83,000 people in the county live in buildings like this.

I wonder if any of them have

spent much time assembling an earthquake kit or considering a more stable building. The guess is that not many have. Let's face it, on any given day, most all enjoy living on the edge even if it's on the edge of a ward fault.

In the end, we can only hope that our ability to adapt to a life of living here in the age of great quake is equal to the ability to prepare for it as best we can.

For me, that means getting of the peanut butter and jelly into our earthquake kit and my next born-again preparation phase.

After that, let the chaos be they may.

Owning

FROM PAGE B16

might well be cheaper. This is a subject to explore with your financial advisor.

The dinkytown site also has calculators for comparing the cost of buying versus renting. You might also shop around to see if there are appealing homes in your price range. Look at the homes listed by the National As-

sociation of Realtors at www.realtor.com.

Is this a good time to buy? Sure — assuming you're not planning to move in just a few years. Mortgage rates are relatively low by historical standards. Home prices may not keep rising at the torrid rates of the past few years, but if you plan to keep your home for five or 10 years, or more, I wouldn't worry too much about losing money.

Over the long haul, owning is better than renting.

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3 New Listings

1001 RICHMOND STREET, EL CERRITO
#016 - Beautiful! Built in 2005! 3 bed/2 bath, family rm w/ skylight, living rm w/ fireplace, eat-in kitchen, formal dining rm, wood floors, dual pane, 2-car garage, security system, laundry area, landscaping, BART bus/shopping all nearby. Much more!
\$728,800

5332 FRESNO AVENUE, RICHMOND
#136 - Convenient location. Completely refurbished, spacious duplex. Two-bedroom units with wall-to-wall carpeting. Separate laundry. Detached garage. Roomy basement, fenced front yard. Excellent potential. Live in one, rent one.
\$625,000

837 NORVELL STREET, EL CERRITO
#160 - Cute and cozy home with charm! Fresh paint inside & out, new carpets, remodeled bathroom, large detached garage & workshop, laundry room, dual pane windows. Convenient location - close to BART. Just move right in!
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5614 POINTSETT \$635,000
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Bankruptcy
PAGE B18
...he said he'd recently seen people filing for bankruptcy for a foreclosure," but he's not sure because the new law is restrictive or because there's a party over some of the new provisions, and people and their attorneys are waiting for courts to clarify the muddy provisions.
...time, however, "I think foreclosures will be stopped because homeowners won't be able to file for bankruptcy as quickly

as they could before," he said.
Duane H. Gillman, an attorney with Durham Jones & Pinegar in Salt Lake City, agreed. Homeowners who wait until the last minute to try to save their homes "may be unable to conduct the credit review in time, and that may have some impact on the number of homes lost to foreclosure," he said.
Gillman has served as a Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee since 1982, which means he's responsible for evaluating the assets and liabilities of people who file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and liquidating the assets to pay creditors.
Real estate agents who special-

ize in foreclosed properties offer mixed reports on whether changes in the law have affected their inventory. "I got more foreclosed properties assigned to me in the first quarter of 2006 than were assigned to me in all of last year," said Alex Macau, broker associate at Keller Williams Realty Premier Properties in Miami. "I can confidently say the new bankruptcy law has something to do with that."
But Chris Mann, broker-associate at RE/MAX Horizons Group in Firestone, Colo., who specializes in short sales and foreclosed properties, said the new law hasn't af-

fected his business in any noticeable way. "My business has gone gangbusters," he said, "but I haven't seen the bankruptcy law play a large part in that. The problems I see are because of interest-only mortgages and because two-year ARMs are coming due, and our economy hasn't seen the growth it did in the past. These homeowners can't refinance because they can't afford the refinancing fee, and they can't afford the higher payments, so they're short-selling or they're losing their house to foreclosure."
The same is true in the metro Atlanta market, said Bob Hodge of

Circle Real Estate Services, LLC in Marietta, Ga., who also specializes in foreclosures. Hodge said he's seen a huge increase in inventory—four times the amount three years ago. He's sure the new bankruptcy law "has a little something to do with it," but the more likely culprits, he said, "are the large number of 100-percent loans, interest-only loans, down payment assistance programs, and the slower economy."
But Carl Bradley, founding broker of Eagle, Realtors in Houston, who's specialized in foreclosure sales for 29 years, questions whether filing for bankruptcy has

ever helped homeowners in the first place. "Filing for bankruptcy didn't affect whether people could save their house," he said. "It was just a stall tactic. Even though homeowners can stop the foreclosure by filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, the mortgage company gets released from the stay and continues the foreclosure."
Homeowners have to file for Chapter 13 bankruptcy to save their house, and if they do that, then their payment becomes higher than it was before. So I don't think the new law is going to have a long-term affect on foreclosures for people who file for bankruptcy."

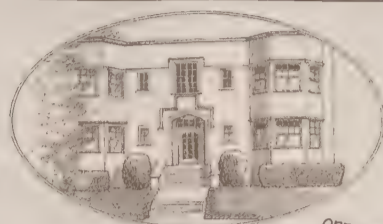
RECENT SALE

I recently represented the buyer of this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom home in the Crocker Highlands area of Oakland.

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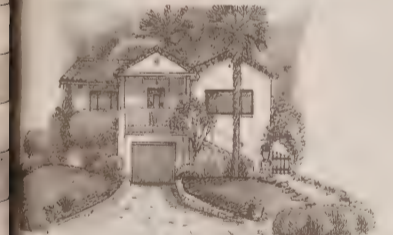


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Ann Arriola Plant
527.2700 x 27



COVENTRY ROAD

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Mediterranean in a quiet neighborhood. Bay & views from the large light-filled living room & formal dining room. 3 bdms, 1 remodeled bath, spacious kitchen breakfast room. Garage, plus room & workshop. Huge private backyard w/patio & mature trees. \$699,000

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527.2700 x 32



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Alice McLeish 527.2700.x 35 Open Sun 2-4

545 35TH STREET

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Sunny, delightful home has magical flowering garden with playhouse. 3BR/2BA. Remodeled kitchen, hdwd floors in living room, home office potential. \$479,000
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El Cerrito
El Cerrito Charming! Great hill views, hdwd flrs, spacious rooms, PLUS, two 1-BR sweet nooks, 3 separate garages. Private patio area. Near BART & shops.
Contact Agent
Pedersen 527.2700 x36



5847 Nottingham

Montclair

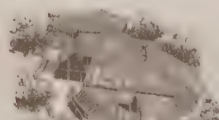
Secluded 2br/2ba cottage is a little bit of heaven in the trees, just 20 mins. from S.F. Surrounded by windows opening to lovely vistas, this level-in-home shares a private drive w/neighbors. Master suite. Remodeled kitchen. Magical garden.
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Why live with bathroom clutter and chaos any longer?

Maybe it's that pile of used bath towels on the floor. Or the shrine to shampoo that lurks behind your shower curtain. A somewhere in your home, it exists: that scary, clutter-filled bathroom. And chances are, it's probably your master or your child's bathroom.

Today's bathrooms are in need of some serious de-cluttering. A few simple tips can get you there quickly and easily.

Master bath solutions

Believe it or not, the master bath is often the worst clutter culprit. Since it's hidden away from company's prying eyes, you're more likely to close the door than clean it up. Add to that the hectic pace of a two-person morning routine and even a spotless bathroom on Sunday night can turn to mayhem by Monday morning.

Make a clean sweep. Start by removing every loose item from the room:

- Clear off all bottles and toiletries from the sink, and throw away anything that you purchased with good intentions, but don't use. Put items you use every day into a pile and place the rest under the sink or in a medicine cabinet. Set aside the most decorative pieces, such as perfumes, colognes and cosmetics.

- Remove all towels, robes and pajamas. Take an inventory of what you use and what you need to access easily.

- Remove any children's bath items and set them in a separate pile.

Next, bring in the clutter catchers:

- Organize your daily toiletries by usage. Do you brush your teeth first, then put on your makeup? From left to right, sort your items accordingly. Consider using a small basket to keep things neatly arranged. You'll find that once you've put things in order, they are much more likely to stay that way.

- Give every towel and robe its rightful place. You've inventoried the items — now compare this to the number of towel bars in your bath. It could be time to change your accessories or add some new and more functional items.

Look to Inspirations by Moen for sophisticated new styles, such as the Retreat and Lounge collections. Both collections feature robe hooks and double towel bars that provide both quick access and multi-tasking capabilities.

Double towel bars can maximize wall space, and an artfully arranged series of robe hooks can provide order to your towels or clothes.

- Bring in a decorative and covered basket for children's items. Although these items may be used every day, they can take away from the luxurious retreat feel of the master bath. Place them in a container that's more in line with your bathroom's style.

- Make decorative toiletries a part of the décor. A stylish glass shelf, such as the one found in Moen's new Retreat collection, can offer both function and beauty. A curved hourglass silhouette balances the shelf's geometric base — so your everyday items will look more ornamental.

Children's bath solutions

All hope is not lost for the second-most-cluttered bathroom in the house. The secret is to make things fun and accessible for children. Again, do a clean sweep of the area, arranging items into categories, such as:

- Bath-time necessities and toys, daily necessities and towels and pajamas.

Now, look at the bathroom from

Today's bathrooms are in need of some serious de-cluttering. A few simple tips can get you there quickly and easily.

your child's perspective. It's hard to reach the towel bar when you're only three feet tall. And it's tough for little hands to change the toilet paper roll, and toys are really the only reason to take a bath. Consider:

- Installing towel bars lower on the wall or using a robe hook mounted closer to the ground so that the child can reach their own towel.

- Using a plastic basket to store bath toiletries and toys in one place. Keep the basket under the sink so children can easily access it.

The added bonus? This central location encourages children to put items away when they are finished.

- Install a toilet paper holder

that pivots — such as those offered by Inspirations by Moen. Simply lift the arm, remove the empty roll, reload and lower the arm back into place.

Just as Velcro helps a child learn to put on his or her shoes, these paper holders are easy to load.

Better yet, they're decorative and make toilet paper changes easier on adults too. Most of Moen's bath accessory collections offer this unique feature.

There's no question that a little organization goes a long way. With a little TLC, your master bath can become the beautiful decorator showcase you always wanted. And, your child's bathroom can function as more of a work zone than disaster zone.

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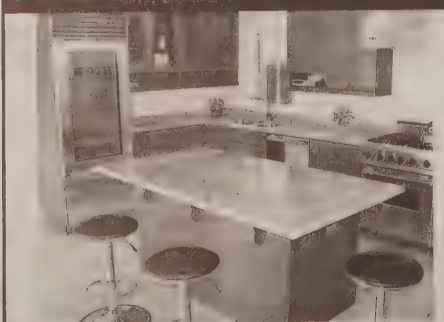
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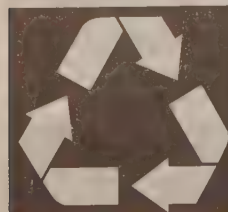
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This week's
Open Home
Guide
starts on
B24.



Tearing down house before sale forfeits \$250,000 tax break

Dear Bob: My sister, brother and I have owned a family home for about 15 years. I lived there until 2003 so I am eligible for the sale of my principal residence sale exemption. The house has been on the market for a year with no offers. I am planning on demolishing it and building two condos. I would then be able to take advantage of the \$250,000 exemption on the sale of the house as I am on the original deed. — Theresa L.

Theresa: No, you would not be eligible. The reason is in the Internal Revenue Code 121 applies to the sale of your principal residence where you have resided for 24 of the 60 months prior to the sale.

Tearing down the house and building two condos would forfeit the \$250,000 exemption because the house was not your principal residence for the required two of five years before sale.

Housing market to stay on high plateau

THE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS says sales should generally remain at historically high levels, according to the National Association of Realtors. Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said mortgage interest rates are trending up but will remain favorable. Economic growth and job creation are providing a favorable backdrop for the housing market, Lereah said. Interest rates have an "upward effect," Lereah said. Sales will move up and somewhat over the remainder of the year but stay at a high level, meaning this will be the strongest year on record. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage is forecast at 6.9 percent by the year.

In the U.S. gross domestic product is forecast at 3.7 percent in 2006, while the unemployment rate should average 4.8 percent.

Home sales are projected to drop 6.0 percent to 6.65 million this year from a record 7.1 million in 2005. New-home sales are likely to fall 10.9 percent to 1.28 million from the record 1.4 million last year — both sectors

High housing prices have been driving the balance of the market a bit more favorable for sellers. Annual appreciation remains in double-digit territory.

Thomas M. Stevens
NAR President

The third best year for home sales was 2004. Housing sales are forecast at 2.00 million in 2006, which is 3.2 percent below the 2.07 million in total starts

President Thomas M. Stevens, from Vienna, Va., said home sales are expected to remain as much as in earlier years. "Although housing has been improving, prices are still a bit more favorable for sellers and annual appreciation remains in double-digit territory," Stevens said.

Stevens, senior vice president of NRT Inc., said the market is in a "normalization" — appreciation is returning to normal levels, providing solid returns into the future. The median existing-home price for all housing types is forecast to increase 6.4 percent to \$221,700, while the new-home price is expected to rise 2.3 percent to \$200,000.

As measured by the National Association of Realtors, the price index is seen at 100 in 2000. Inflation-adjusted personal income is expected to grow 3.8 percent

National Association of Realtors, the largest trade association, has more than 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of residential and commercial real estate industries.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

When a home doesn't sell within a year, something is seriously wrong. The primary reason a house or condo doesn't sell within a reasonable time is usually because it is overpriced.

Last year was a record volume year for home sales. If your house didn't sell in this superb market, you're doing something wrong. There is a buyer for every home, but at the buyer's price and the buyer's terms.

Do you have it listed for sale with the area's most successful Realtor? If not, why not? If you are trying to sell the home alone without a professional realty agent, that is the major reason why the home isn't selling.

If you really want to get that house sold, get it listed for sale with the area's best Realtor at its fair market value so it will receive maximum market exposure, especially through the local multiple listing service (MLS) and on the Internet at Realtor.com.

Is interest-only mortgage good or bad for home buyer?

Dear Bob: We are "cash challenged" home buyers. As you often suggest, we are trying to get pre-approved for a mortgage before we start seriously shopping for a home. A mortgage company we consulted suggests we get an "interest-only" mortgage because our monthly pay-

Tearing down the house and building two condos would forfeit your \$250,000 exemption. The condos were not your principal residence for the required two of the last five years before sale.

ments will be rock bottom so we can qualify for a larger mortgage. That's good. But it is an adjustable-rate mortgage. That's bad.

Also, it has a 10-year term. By then, my husband expects to be promoted and transferred to his company's main office. What do you think of interest-only mortgages? — Ruth Ann G.



ROBERT BRUSS

lenders because monthly payments are as low as possible. But most lenders prefer to instead originate adjustable-rate, interest-only mortgages.

See BRUSS, Page B22

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Custom home with panoramic parkland views. One of kind settings on the edge of the park with spectacular majestic views. This spacious home features five bedrooms, a home office, and a dramatic living room and formal dining room. There is also a three car garage.

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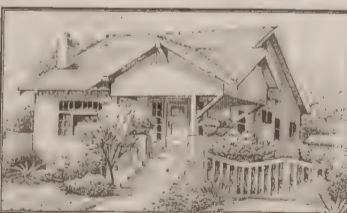


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Offered @ \$945,000

A Wonderful Craftsman Bungalow plus In-Law Apartment on One of Rockridge's Friendliest Streets

If you have been searching for a home that has retained all the wonderful architectural detailing of the Classic Craftsman Bungalow yet, has updated spaces plus a spacious In-Law apartment, then this home is worth a visit. There is beautiful detailing throughout with a traditional brick-fronted fireplace, gleaming hardwood floors, and a built-in China cabinet. This sunny home features 2+ bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in the main house plus a one bedroom In-Law Apartment with a separate entrance. There is a remodeled eat-in kitchen with a commercial style stove and plenty of room for the cook and all the helpers. Formal living and dining rooms, an incredibly sunny home office overlooking the back yard, partial basement, detached garage, and new roof make for a dream home in Rockridge. The back yard has plenty of space to play and the shared driveway still allows for two off-street parking spots. The in-law apartment has a charming "attic" style, but without the low ceilings. There is a generous bedroom and living room with a huge eat-in, Ikea style kitchen. The separate entrance makes for a perfect rental, home office, guest quarters, or ??? The in-law can be reconnected to the main house as your family situation grows and changes with an existing stairway. This set up allows for a very flexible living situation and the in-law can help make this home much more affordable. Everyone loves James Avenue as you are truly located in the heart of Rockridge, yet since James Avenue is not a thru street it feels like an oasis in the city. The trees, friendly neighbors and one of Rockridge's best block parties make this home an ideal place to live. You will be close to everything — including all the great shops and restaurants on College Ave. BART, AC Transit, Casual Carpooling to SF, Freeways, and easy access to all the major work places makes commuting from this home a snap. As a bonus, Piedmont Avenue and Temescal with all the new and exciting eateries are just a few blocks away. And with coffee available at every turn, what could be better?!

Ron Kriss, Broker
510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net

ONLINE TOUR @ www.5344James.Com



**3012 Eastman
Open Sunday 2-4:30**

Offered at \$445,000

Lovely Lower Laurel Bungalow
This light-filled home is nestled on a quiet street near transportation and shopping. Relax on the front porch with a good book and a cup of tea. Beautiful hardwood floors invite you into this 2-bedroom/1-bath with 2 plus rooms. This house is in move-in condition, is full of light, has a fireplace and oozes with charm

Janet Kaplan, GRI
Windermere Real Estate
510-527-5267
"All Paths Lead Home"

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate
900 Colusa Avenue, Berkeley, CA
(510) 984-2000

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

**2117 Pinehurst Court
EL CERRITO \$749,000**

Spectacular City, C.G., Bay And Golf Course Views In Mira Vista Country Club Level-in entry. Exceptionally well maintained with \$100,000+ top-quality upgrades. Luxurious, gorgeous, and immaculate like a model home in serene cul-de-sac area.

3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome (approx 2,300 sq. ft., low HOA = \$141/month) in Mira Vista Country Club with unbelievable bay and golf course views throughout. Top-quality upgrades: Birch hardwood floors, Berber carpets, fresh paint, double pane windows with beautiful coverings, large master suite w/large Jacuzzi tub, custom walk-in closet, huge eat-in kitchen with wet bar, cathedral ceiling with skylights and fireplace in living room, leading to patio with spectacular views. Large garage with lots of storage. \$0 termite, sewer lateral done.

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3826 LINCOLN AVE, OAKLAND
Diamond Dist. - Calif. Bungalow 2 bed house w/original wood detail, up-dated kitchen & bath. Sun filled enclosed back porch. Landscaped front & back with a new stone patio. Move in condition.
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\$839,000

Tom Bennett: 510-205-3051

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PRIME PROPERTIES

Bruss

FROM PAGE 21

However, if your adjustable-rate, interest-only mortgage has an annual maximum interest rate increase, such as 1 percent, and because you expect to keep your home less than 10 years, an interest-only mortgage might be your best bet.

The fact your mortgage won't have any principal reduction is not important because during the first 10 years there is very little pay down on amortized mortgages.

I notice your letter is postmarked from an area with rapid home market value appreciation. If appreciation continues at the current rate, you should have a handsome equity profit by the time you are ready to sell your home.

New book about investing in property tax liens

Dear Bob: I am interested in investing in property tax liens. Are they worth buying? What are the pitfalls? Are there any good information sources on how to avoid mistakes? — Mark G.

Dear Mark: You are very fortunate that there is an excellent brand new book on this profitable topic. The new book is "Profit by Investing in Real Estate Tax Liens" by attorney Larry B. Loftis. This superb book includes property tax

lien investing details for all states, including lots of personal examples from the author. It is available in stock or by special order at local bookstores, public libraries and online.

You can't trade for property you already own

Dear Bob: If I build on a prop-

erty I own in California before I sell my current home, can I trade up and take advantage of that IRC 1031 tax-deferred exchange rule to avoid capital gains tax on the sale of my home? — Sammy R.

Dear Sammy: No. You can't make an Internal Revenue Code 1031 tax-deferred exchange for real estate you already own.

But there is no need for you to make a trade. If you want to sell your current principal residence home, if you owned and lived in it at least 24 of the 60 months before its sale, Internal Revenue Code 121 allows you to claim up to \$250,000 tax-free profits (up to \$500,000 if you are married with a spouse who also meets this time test).

Handicap scams

Dear Bob: Thank you for running that item about the blind apartment tenant with a guide dog whose barking disturbs other tenants. As a landlord, I had a similar situation. Although I have a "no pet rule" I knew I had to allow service dogs for handicapped tenants.

A nice young man who was to be handicapped said he had a "service dog" to help with his mental condition. He showed me the paperwork. It was fake. I had rented him a garden apartment with a fenced patio. The neighbors

See BRUSS, Page B21

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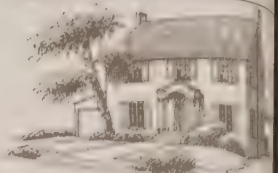
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open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A classic Colonial in Crocker Highlands. Formal floor plan, three+ bedrooms upstairs, playroom on the first floor. Level front garden and huge private deck. Delightful!

Offered at \$799,000



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Crocker Highlands

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svogl@grubbco.com

Orinda Contemporary Craftsman



165 Holly Lane, Orinda

Beautiful new construction located in private hillside setting of Orinda. This 4 bedroom and 3 bath home boasts detailed craftsmanship with an open beam ceiling, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen & priv master suite. Spacious decks with spectacular views and multiple level floor plan creates lots of possibilities! Don't miss!

Offered at \$1,800,000



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open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Owner's penthouse live/work loft plus adjacent income studio! Historic Besler Building in the heart of Emeryville! Great open spaces with fantastic hill views, high ceilings and huge windows. Very exciting and rare.

Offered at \$945,000



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548 wildcat canyon road, berkeley



Open Sun. 2-4

mid-century modern

elegant & sleek
big glass walls open to private courtyard
3 bedrooms 2 baths

level indoor/outdoor living
updated eat-in kitchen
detached office
private parking off woodmont

offered at \$859,000



Ann Arriola Plant
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View this home @
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open sunday



5670 Weaver Place, Oakland Hills

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Exquisite retreat in Hillcrest Estates. This rare estate sits on over an acre of useable land and is zoned for horses. The zen-like grounds feature a large koi pond with crushed rock pathways leading throughout the property. The home has recently been remodeled to create an open floor plan with a spectacular living and dining room. The chef's kitchen is accented with cherrywood cabinets and granite counter tops. The master suite is unbelievable in scale and includes an exquisite bath area with a steam shower, huge walk-in closet and a private lanai overlooking the grounds.

Offered at \$2,195,000

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★ ★ Sunny & Spacious Garden Condo in Berkeley ★ ★ ★ ★ Open House - Sunday, May 21st 2-4:30pm ★ ★

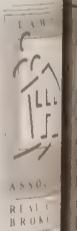


3045 L Deakin Street
@ Ashby

Offered at \$349,000

- Spacious basement condo with lots of windows and tons of light
- Great, open layout with Living, Dining and Office areas
- Separate galley kitchen with great counter space & newer appliances
- Bright oak laminate floors throughout; washer & dryer in unit
- Huge storage closets; bedroom closet has built in storage system
- Large bathroom with stall shower, travertine floors and tumbled marble tile
- Great central Berkeley location, right off of Ashby just below Telegraph

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3882 Shafter Avenue - Turn of the Century Farm House



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- Two bedrooms, one bathroom on first floor and a non-conforming one bedroom unit downstairs
- Wonderful large garden with trees and colorful flowers
- Near BART, Kaiser Hospital and Piedmont Avenue
- In an area in which there is a lot of new construction and renovation work being done
- House is situated on a large lot, 5900 square foot, there is room for expansion and possible development

Offered at \$598,000

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BRUSS

FROM PAGE B22
I told me he had a pit bull dog
and was running a "puppy mill"
and another dog.
I paid the rent on time but re-
fused to allow me to inspect. After
my banking, and the neighboring
owner moving out, I hired an at-
torney to avoid my so-called "hand-
capped tenant."

It cost me \$2,400 in attorney
fees and payment to the tenant to
get out. As a sympathetic land-
lord, what could I have done to pre-
vent this? — Robert N.

Dear Robert: Did you check ref-
erences of the applicant's two pre-
vious landlords? That's what I do.
A current landlord might lie to get
rid of a bad tenant. But the previ-
ous landlord will usually tell the

truth. Very few tenants abuse the
Americans with Disabilities Act
law. But a few do. Your tenant
obviously not handicapped
was running a pit bull breed-
ing operation.

tax advice could be costly

Dear Bob: We own a small va-
cation cabin, which is worth about
\$300,000. We purchased it in 1995
for \$80,000. This is a vacation

home, which we do not rent out.

We are thinking of selling it
and buying a mobile home for
about the same price. I under-
stand there will be no capital
gains tax unless the mobile home
is priced lower than the selling
price of our cabin. Correct? —
Dianne C.

Dear Dianne: Wrong! Who gave
you that horrible tax information?
He or she is completely mistaken.
Your vacation home sale \$100,000
capital gain does not qualify for any
special tax exemption. It will be tax-
able at the current federal capital
gain 15 percent tax rate, plus any
state tax. The fact you want to buy
a mobile home is irrelevant. Please
consult your tax adviser immedi-
ately.

Sometimes buying a "tear down" house is smart

Dear Bob: While the only stupid
question is the one left
unasked, this might be an excep-
tion. Suppose someone buys a
house in a good area but, because
of its condition, tears the house
down and builds a new house on
the lot.

Does the buyer get to declare a
loss on his/her income-tax return?
I don't understand when someone
says it is cheaper to buy a tear-down
house than to buy a vacant lot

— David J.

Dear David: Your question is
not stupid. Thousands of home
buyers who want to live in a spe-
cial neighborhood buy run-down
houses there, tear them down,
and build their dream homes. This
happens all over the nation, es-
pecially in older upscale neigh-
borhoods.

When an existing house is torn
down by the owner, there is no tax
deductible loss involved. But the
purchase price is added to the cost
of additional construction to arrive
at the adjusted cost basis.

To illustrate, suppose you buy
an older house in a great neigh-
borhood for \$400,000. You tear it
down and build a new house for
\$500,000. Therefore, your adjusted
cost basis is \$900,000.

For full details, please consult
your tax adviser.

If CPA doesn't understand "starker exchange," get a new CPA

Dear Bob: Many times you have
referred to a Starker exchange of
one rental property for another rental
property to avoid capital gain tax.

My CPA (certified public ac-
countant) has never heard of a
Starker exchange. Such a tax-de-
ferred trade could be very useful to
me but now I don't know where to
find more information. Can you
help? — Pete W.

Dear Pete: You need to hire a
new CPA because you are not re-
ceiving competent tax advice. The
term Starker exchange is widely
used among real estate investors.
It refers to Internal Revenue Code
1031(a)(3).

That tax law allows tax deferral
when you sell your property held
for investment or use in a trade or
business for another such property
of equal or greater cost without re-
ducing your mortgage balance.

The reason this technique is
called a Starker exchange is it was
created by the late T.J. Starker who
successfully traded his Oregon tim-
berland tax-deferred for "like kind"
property.

You can read all about tax-de-
ferred exchanges in my special re-
port, "How the New Tax-Deferred
Real Estate Exchange Rules Can
Make You Very Wealthy," available
for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park
Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by
credit card at 1-800-736-1736 or in-
stant Internet PDF download at
www.bobbruss.com.

Questions for this column are
welcome at either address.

THE WEEKLY SALES ARE IN THE AUTO SECTION ON D7.

Lovely Home

Open Sunday 1-5pm

101 Lake Avenue, Piedmont

Its open floor plan and light-filled rooms include 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Updated features include

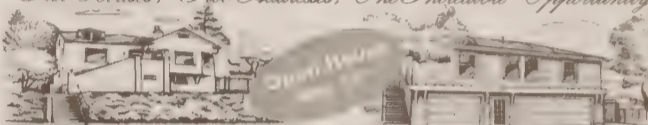
cook's kitchen, full finished basement, custom entertainment center, Jacuzzi tubs in bathrooms, large attic, landscaping and irrigation, superior craftsmanship & private deck and garden. All new windows, doors, roof, foundations, plumbing, electrical, heating, and much more make this a house you can relax in and enjoy right now without the need for additional remodeling. Close to Piedmont Avenue, school, playgrounds, playing field, and tennis courts.

Offered at \$1,350,000
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Two Houses, Two Addresses, One Incredible Opportunity!



80 Wildwood Avenue, Piedmont

Come view this lovingly rebuilt 4 bedroom, 2 bath Piedmont traditional. New foundation, electrical, plumbing and roof topped with a beautifully appointed gourmet kitchen and Brazilian Cherry wood floors.

56 Sylvan Way, Piedmont

Prepare to be impressed by the gorgeous views of the Piedmont hills from this 2 bedroom, 1 bath newly constructed brown-shingle carriage house with its contemporary kitchen & expansive deck. You will not be disappointed!

Offered together for: \$1,750,000



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old sold

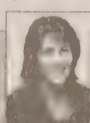
Charming Redwood Heights traditional with three bedrooms, two and one half baths.

Originally offered at \$719,000
Represented the buyer with multiple offers



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New Listing 420 57th Street, Oakland

Open Sun 1-5

Beautiful Rockridge Charmer



3 bedrooms, 1 bath, large bonus room, formal dining room, fireplace, hardwood floors throughout, high ceilings, bay windows, eat-in kitchen opens on to huge landscaped backyard. Walk to College Ave. shops, restaurants and Bart.

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Judy Swaby

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jswaby@interoestate.com



own by appointment

Located in central Piedmont, this
English home has it all. Exquisite
details with leaded windows, plaster
moldings and original carved wood motifs.
Levels of living include a work-out
room, full attic with built-in office, second
level family room, first level family room
and library. There are five+ bedrooms, five+
baths plus an au-pair/studio space over the
garage. An elegant terrace off the family
room kitchen opens to beautiful gardens
and a pool. Stunning Bay views.

Offered at \$4,950,000



15 Caperton Avenue
Piedmont

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doors to balconies! Stunning landscaped
gardens! Close to UC and gourmet ghetto.

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<div>Alameda</div> <div><div>\$325,000</div><div>1305 Webster St. C-209</div><div>1 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Bette Barr</div></div> <div><div>\$329,000</div><div>1333 Webster A313</div><div>1 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat 2-4:30</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Chris Price</div></div> <div><div>\$345,000</div><div>105 Cypress St.</div><div>2 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Nina Quan</div></div> <div><div>\$349,000</div><div>2107B San Jose Ave.</div><div>2 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>BJ Droubi & Co.</div><div>Lynne Jassem</div></div> <div><div>\$369,000</div><div>1170-9th St. #14</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-5</div><div>Prudential Piedmont</div><div>Bryan Salomone</div></div> <div><div>\$378,000</div><div>1814 2nd St.</div><div>3 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Nina Quan</div></div> <div><div>\$419,000</div><div>2107A San Jose Ave.</div><div>1+BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>BJ Droubi & Co.</div><div>Lynne Jassem</div></div> <div><div>\$435,000</div><div>2137 Otis Dr. #306</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Bayside Real Est.</div><div>Lula Curry/lara Campos-Davids</div></div> <div><div>\$449,500</div><div>339 Broadway #203</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 1-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div><div>Mario & Wendy Mariani</div></div> <div><div>\$459,000</div><div>2137 Otis Dr. #322</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>Jason Byrley</div></div> <div><div>\$475,000</div><div>1533 Pacific Ave.</div><div>1 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 1-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.</div><div>P. Dimacali/L. Acacio</div></div> <div><div>\$475,000</div><div>1594 Pacific Ave.</div><div>2 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Mary Bunker</div></div> <div><div>\$479,000</div><div>2101 Shoreline Dr. #146</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Carol Burnett</div></div> <div><div>\$485,000</div><div>617-A Pacific Ave.</div><div>2 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 1-3:30</div><div>RVS Realty & Mortgage</div><div>Kim Henderson</div></div> <div><div>\$498,000</div><div>2027 Otis Dr F</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Isabella Lipetski/Ronald Jones</div></div> <div><div>\$514,000</div><div>3203 Fiji Lane</div><div>2BD/1.5BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Pacific Coast Real Estate</div><div>Ryan Dunn</div></div> <div><div>\$514,000</div><div>3203 Fiji Lane</div><div>2 BD/1.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Pacific Coast Real Estate</div><div>Ryan Dunn</div></div> <div><div>\$515,000</div><div>2101 Shoreline Dr. #290</div><div>2 BD/1.5 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 1-4</div><div>Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes</div><div>John Chang</div></div> <div><div>\$529,000</div><div>1717 Oak St.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Centennial Real Estate</div><div>Linda Larkin</div></div> <div><div>\$539,000</div><div>3210 Fiji Lane</div><div>2 BD/1.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>Luisa Marin</div></div> <div><div>\$550,000</div><div>534 Halght St.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>John or Jill Parten</div></div> <div><div>\$555,000</div><div>3537 Norman Ln</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Fred Christensen</div></div> <div><div>\$575,000</div><div>3421 Catalina Ave.</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Tom Young</div></div> <div><div>\$595,000</div><div>635 Centre Ct.</div><div>2 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sun 11-2</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Donnaluci Williams</div></div> <div><div>\$599,000</div><div>339 Broadway #218</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Carol Burnett</div></div> <div><div>\$599,000</div><div>4 Courageous Ct.</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>Wendy Sando</div></div> <div><div>\$619,000</div><div>1167 Island Dr.</div><div>4 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Bayside Real Estate</div><div>Phillip Kaake</div></div> <div><div>\$619,000</div><div>430A Cola Ballena</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Help-U-Sell Action Properties</div><div>Theresa Herget</div></div> <div><div>\$629,000</div><div>1237 Broadway</div><div>2BD/1BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Carol Knight</div></div> <div><div>\$629,000</div><div>1614 Benton St.</div><div>2 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Ginger Schuler</div></div> <div><div>\$629,000</div><div>502 Lagunaria Ln.</div><div>2 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 1-4</div><div>Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes</div><div>John Chang</div></div> <div><div>\$639,000</div><div>3247 Sterling Avenue</div><div>2+ BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>Vickie Lim / Mindy Hart</div></div> <div><div>\$644,000</div><div>1516 Lincoln Avenue</div><div>3BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sat/Sun 1-5</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>James Brown</div></div> <div><div>\$645,000</div><div>1023 Eagle Ave.</div><div>2+BD/1 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>D. Gunderman/A. Raszkopf</div></div> <div><div>\$649,000</div><div>251 Beach Rd.</div><div>3 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>G. Williams/N. Zamora</div></div> <div><div>\$649,000</div><div>2814 Otis Dr</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Maureen Shandobil</div></div> <div><div>\$669,000</div><div>3221 Encinal Ave.</div><div>Duplex</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Bickley Real Estate</div><div>John Bickley</div></div> <div><div>\$678,000</div><div>1507 Encinal Ave.</div><div>3 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 1-4</div><div>Agent</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$678,000</div><div>28 Invincible Ct</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat 12-12/Sun 1:30-4:30</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Susan Battaglia</div></div> <div><div>\$679,000</div><div>451 Central Ave.</div><div>21BD Units</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div><div>Bill & Griselda Bissett</div></div> <div><div>\$685,000</div><div>1566 Lincoln Ave. Units C/d</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Barbara Bolton/Bill Douglas</div></div> <div><div>\$687,000</div><div>1208 High Street</div><div>2 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.</div><div>Angela McIntyre</div></div> <div><div>\$695,000</div><div>1909 Kitty</div><div>3BD/2BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Carol Knight</div></div> <div><div>\$695,000</div><div>4 Parish Ct</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>D. Alvarez-Morrón/E. Millin</div></div> <div><div>\$699,000</div><div>200 Bannister Ct</div><div>3BD/2.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Rob Platt & Associates R.E.</div><div>Rob Platt</div></div> <div><div>\$710,000</div><div>1615 Pearl St.</div><div>3 BD/1 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>D. Alvarez-Morrón/E. Millin</div></div>	<div>Alameda</div> <div><div>\$725,000</div><div>914 Ironwood Road</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Lisa Hornebeck/Connie Hanna</div></div> <div><div>\$729,000</div><div>105 Brunswick Rd.</div><div>2 BD/1.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Nancy & Chuck Bianchi</div></div> <div><div>\$749,000</div><div>111 Orr Rd.</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Ringo Liu</div></div> <div><div>\$759,000</div><div>2828 Burgner Ave.</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Jena Ng/Alex Mak</div></div> <div><div>\$769,000</div><div>2058 San Jose Ave.</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Chuck & Nancy Bianchi</div></div> <div><div>\$769,000</div><div>2314 Clinton Avenue</div><div>4+BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage</div><div>Andrea Gordon</div></div> <div><div>\$799,000</div><div>3252 Thompson Ave.</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>George Williams</div></div> <div><div>\$810,000</div><div>167 Inverness Way</div><div>3 BD/3 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 1-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div><div>Desiray McCall</div></div> <div><div>\$849,500</div><div>644 Tarryton Isle</div><div>4 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>M. Lomba/S. McWilliam</div></div> <div><div>\$850,000</div><div>2 Rowe Ct.</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div><div>Signe Nelson/Sam McDowell</div></div> <div><div>\$859,000</div><div>605 Glenwood Isle</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Martha Turner</div></div> <div><div>\$865,000</div><div>2960 Southwood Dr.</div><div>4 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Denise Garvin</div></div> <div><div>\$869,000</div><div>2255 Clinton Ave.</div><div>3 BD/3 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Darin Vinland</div></div> <div><div>\$879,000</div><div>1534 Sherman St.</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Karen Miller</div></div> <div><div>\$895,000</div><div>1715 Otis Dr.</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.</div><div>B. & G. Bisset/ A. Wagner</div></div> <div><div>\$898,000</div><div>1605 Buena Vista Ave.</div><div>3 or 4 BD</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div><div>Pacita Dimacali/Isris Muriilo</div></div> <div><div>\$899,000</div><div>430 Hollister Ave.</div><div>4 BD/3 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Nancy Mach</div></div> <div><div>\$929,000</div><div>2837 Marina Dr.</div><div>2 BD/1.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>Marilyn Oliver</div></div> <div><div>\$930,000</div><div>1619 Moreland Dr.</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.</div><div>Signe Nelson/Troy Staten</div></div> <div><div>\$938,000</div><div>225 Beach Road</div><div>5 BD/3 BA</div><div>Sat 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div>Michelle Adams</div></div> <div><div>\$950,000</div><div>1439 East Shore Dr.</div><div>4 BD/3.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Bayside Real Estate</div><div>Dianna Wyman</div></div> <div><div>\$968,000</div><div>268 Ratto Rd.</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Lena Sazo/Karen Wellman</div></div> <div><div>\$979,000</div><div>1717 St. Charles St.</div><div>4BD/2.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage</div><div>Andrea Gordon</div></div> <div><div>\$999,000</div><div>2057 Alameda Ave.</div><div>5 BD/3 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Steve Sorensen</div></div> <div><div>\$1,050,000</div><div>431 Cola Ballena</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div><div>Ruth Masonek</div></div> <div><div>\$1,099,000</div><div>356 Anderson Rd.</div><div>5 BD/3 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Janet Iverson/Jena Ng</div></div> <div><div>\$1,100,000</div><div>2850 Central Ave.</div><div>4 BD/4 BA</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Diana Luolos</div></div> <div><div>\$1,169,000</div><div>1626-1628 Alameda Ave.</div><div>Duplex</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div><div>Michele Poulter/Dave Park</div></div> <div><div>\$1,169,000</div><div>2014 Santa Clara Ave.</div><div>2 Units</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Richard Kim</div></div> <div><div>\$1,189,000</div><div>1418 5th Street</div><div>3 Units</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage</div><div>Andrea Gordon</div></div> <div><div>\$1,190,000</div><div>308 Tideway Dr</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Karin Fox</div></div> <div><div>\$1,195,000</div><div>1161 Bay Street</div><div>3 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div><div>Sally Rudloff & Hanna Fry</div></div> <div><div>\$1,299,000</div><div>334 Tideway Drive</div><div>2 BD/2 1/2 BA</div><div>Sun 12-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div><div>Nancy Blom</div></div> <div><div>\$1,299,000</div><div>334 Tideway Drive</div><div>2 BD/2 1/2 BA</div><div>Sun 12-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div><div>Nancy Blom</div></div>	<div>Berkeley</div> <div><div>\$349,000</div><div>3045 L Deakin St</div><div>1BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Lawton Associates</div><div>Mary Smartt</div></div> <div><div>\$399,000</div><div>3117 College Ave #1</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4</div><div>Thornwall Properties</div><div>Kathryn Hill</div></div> <div><div>\$439,000</div><div>1315 S Cornell Ave</div><div>2bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 1-4:30</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div><div>Elizabeth McDonald</div></div> <div><div>\$489,950</div><div>910 Colusa #1</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Sat/Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Widmeyer Real Estate</div><div>Denise Millburn</div></div> <div><div>\$490,000</div><div>1227 #3 Oxford St</div><div>2bd/2ba</div><div>Open Sun. 1-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker Bartels</div><div>Barbara Urbanic</div></div> <div><div>\$499,000</div><div>2908 Florence St</div><div>2bd/1.5ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Malson Nouveau</div><div>Annalise Demuth</div></div> <div><div>\$519,000</div><div>2619 Etna St. #C</div><div>2bd/1.5ba</div><div>Sat/Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Widmeyer Real Estate</div><div>Denise Millburn</div></div> <div><div>\$525,000</div><div>2400 Dowling Place</div><div>1BD+Loft/1BA</div><div>Open Sat & Sun 11-6</div><div>Alpha Real Estate</div><div>Craig Beckerman</div></div> <div><div>\$545,000</div><div>1635 Scenic Avenue, #1</div><div>1BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Annie Walrand</div></div> <div><div>\$560,000</div><div>2400 Dowling Place</div><div>1BD+Loft/1.5BA</div><div>Open Sat & Sun 11-6</div><div>Alpha Real Estate</div><div>Craig Beckerman</div></div> <div><div>\$569,000</div><div>1638 Grant St.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>Gene Della Maggiora</div></div> <div><div>\$575,000</div><div>2312 Blake Street</div><div>2BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Diane Verducci</div></div> <div><div>\$595,000</div><div>2400 Dowling Place</div><div>1BD+Loft/1.5BA</div><div>Open Sat & Sun 11-6</div><div>Alpha Real Estate</div><div>Craig Beckerman</div></div> <div><div>\$599,000</div><div>949 Allston Way</div><div>2BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union Residential</div><div>Shella Gallagher</div></div> <div><div>\$648,000</div><div>3035 Ellis St</div><div>2+bd/2ba</div><div>Sat/Sun 2-5pm</div><div>Prudential Claremont</div><div>Nancy & Natalie</div></div> <div><div>\$650,000</div><div>2400 Dowling Pl</div><div>1BD+Loft+Office/1.5BA</div><div>Open Sat & Sun 11-6</div><div>Alpha Real Estate</div><div>Craig Beckerman</div></div> <div><div>\$650,000</div><div>2430 5th Street #B</div><div>2+BD/2+BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union Residential</div><div>Nancy Norman</div></div> <div><div>\$679,000</div><div>935 Channing Way</div><div>3bd/2ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4</div><div>Thornwall Properties</div><div>Helen Walker/Kathryn Stein</div></div> <div><div>\$719,000</div><div>1119 Carleton Street</div><div>3BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC</div><div>Janice Joyce</div></div> <div><div>\$849,000</div><div>1809 Virginia</div><div>4BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div><div>Carolyn Devol</div></div> <div><div>\$890,000</div><div>1705 Madera</div><div>-bd/-ba</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Berkeley Hills Realty</div><div>Nancy Mueller</div></div> <div><div>\$895,000</div><div>11 Alvarado Road</div><div>4+BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Michael Friedman</div></div> <div><div>\$899,000</div><div>2808 Grant St.</div><div>3 Units</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage</div><div>Andrea Gordon</div></div> <div><div>\$965,000</div><div>2109 Byron</div><div>4+BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>Michael Oh</div></div> <div><div>\$995,000</div><div>1570 Olympus Avenue</div><div>3+BD/2.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Karthiga Anandan</div></div> <div><div>\$1,049,000</div><div>2906 Florence St</div><div>DUPLEX</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Malson Nouveau</div><div>Annalise Demuth</div></div> <div><div>\$1,050,000</div><div>2577 Rose St</div><div>3bd/3.5ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div><div>Linda Elcint</div></div> <div><div>\$1,075,000</div><div>675 San Luis Road</div><div>3+BD/2+BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Tricia Swift</div></div> <div><div>\$1,095,000</div><div>180 Tamalpais</div><div>4bd/2ba</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Mountain View Homes</div><div>Mary Hanna</div></div> <div><div>\$1,165,000</div><div>92 Oakridge Road</div><div>4BD/2.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Faye Keogh</div></div> <div><div>\$1,195,000</div><div>2583 Buena Vista Way</div><div>3+BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Susie Schevill</div></div> <div><div>\$1,295,000</div><div>400 Vermont Avenue</div><div>3+BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Ruth Frassetto</div></div> <div><div>\$1,350,000</div><div>1112 Besito</div><div>3+bd/3+ba</div><div>Ag't., Candace Hyde-Wang</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$1,400,000</div><div>2156 Ward St</div><div>4++bd/4ba</div><div>Open Sat/Sun 2-4pm</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div><div>Gloria Polanski</div></div> <div><div>\$1,550,000</div><div>1097 Creston Road</div><div>4BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Bebe McRae</div></div> <div><div>\$1,950,000</div><div>2630 Cedar Street</div><div>5BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div><div>Sarah Schlier</div></div> <div><div>\$2,120,000</div><div>1998 San Antonio</div><div>5BD/4.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>Kim Marienthal</div></div> <div><div>\$3,300,000</div><div>85 Gravatt Drive</div><div>4BD/4.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div><div>Tertli Britz</div></div>	<div>El Cerrito</div> <div><div>\$629,000</div><div>7060 Cutting Blvd</div><div>3bd/1.5ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div><div>Herman Sun</div></div> <div><div>\$699,900</div><div>832 Kensington</div><div>3bd/2ba</div><div>Open Sun. 1-4</div><div>Results Realty</div><div>John P. Anderson</div></div> <div><div>\$728,800</div><div>1001 Richmond St</div><div>3bd/2ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker Bartels</div><div>Michael Smith</div></div> <div><div>\$749,000</div><div>2117 Pinehurst Court</div><div>3bd/2.5ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Kim Cleveland, Jeans Realty.com</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$840,000</div><div>731 Colusa Ave</div><div>4 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Homes-Link Real Estate</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$895,000</div><div>2531 Mira Vista</div><div>5bd/3ba</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div><div>Ann Arriola Plant</div></div> <div><div>\$1,150,000</div><div>1335 Contra Costa Drive</div><div>3+BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Bebe McRae</div></div> <div><div>\$1,239,000</div><div>1416 Devonshire Drive</div><div>4BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Anne Faste</div></div> <div><div>\$1,295,000</div><div>1591 Regency Court</div><div>2+BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sat 1-4</div><div>Centoni RE Professionals</div><div>Debbie Hart</div></div>	<div>El Sobrante</div> <div><div>\$575,000</div><div>830 Allview</div><div>3bd/2ba</div><div>Open Sun. 1-4</div><div>Security Pacific R.E.</div><div>Marianne DeSilva</div></div> <div><div>\$769,000</div><div>895 Bridgeway Cr.</div><div>4 BD/4BA</div><div>Open Sun 1:30-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>Gregg Lustig</div></div>	<div>Emeryville</div> <div><div>\$478,000</div><div>4 Commodore Drive #D421</div><div>2BD/1.5BA</div><div>Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union Residential</div><div>Nancy Chaw</div></div> <div><div>\$515,000</div><div>823 Appar Street</div><div>2+BD/1+BA</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Intero Real Estate Services</div><div>Tara-Nicholle Nelson</div></div> <div><div>\$559,000</div><div>1250 Powell St. #7</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Malson Nouveau</div><div>Annalise Demuth</div></div> <div><div>\$599,000</div><div>1228 54th St</div><div>2bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div><div>Anita & Alice Wilson</div></div> <div><div>\$599,000</div><div>1250 Powell St. #6</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Malson Nouveau</div><div>Tory Finn</div></div> <div><div>\$945,000</div><div>4053 Harlan Street</div><div>Loft</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Bebe McRae</div></div> <div><div>\$945,000</div><div>4053 Harlan Street</div><div>Loft</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Bebe McRae</div></div>	<div>Hayward</div> <div><div>\$409,000</div><div>25718 Spring Dr.</div><div>2 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.</div><div>D. Park/K. Knight</div></div> <div><div>\$465,500</div><div>1801 Panda Way</div><div>2 BD/1.5 BA</div><div>Sat & Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Bayside Real Estate</div><div>Colleen McFerrin</div></div> <div><div>\$499,000</div><div>65 Fernridge Ct.</div><div>2 BD/2.5 BA</div><div>Sun 12:30-2:30</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Jeff Goodman</div></div> <div><div>\$675,000</div><div>31446 Brae Burn Ave.</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div><div>Sun 10-12</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div>Isabella Lipetski</div></div>	<div>Hercules</div> <div><div>\$709,000</div><div>178 Columbine Pl</div><div>4bd/3ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div><div>Cindy Wilson</div></div>	<div>Kensington</div> <div><div>\$699,000</div><div>705 Coventry Rd</div><div>3bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div><div>Richard Morrison</div></div> <div><div>\$895,000</div><div>120 Windsor Avenue</div><div>3BD/2.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 1-4:30</div><div>Village Associates</div><div>Ann Sharf</div></div> <div><div>\$1,175,000</div><div>22 Kenyon Ave</div><div>4+bd/3ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Marvin Gardens R.E.</div><div>Todd Hodson/Ron Egherman</div></div> <div><div>\$1,265,000</div><div>37 Lam Ct</div><div>5bd/3.5ba</div><div>Open Sun. 1-4</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div><div>Tim Scully</div></div> <div><div>\$1,995,000</div><div>444 Yale Avenue</div><div>4BD/4.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Ford/Plowright</div></div> <div><div>\$3,000,000</div><div>44 Marguerita Rd</div><div>5bd/5ba</div><div>Open Sat/Sun 2-4</div><div>Jill Hacker Real Estate</div><div></div></div>	<div>Lafayette</div> <div><div>\$1,350,000</div><div>12 White Oak Dr</div><div>4BD/3BA</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div><div>Cynthia Schaffer</div></div> <div><div>\$1,595,000</div><div>1153 Camino Vallecito</div><div>4BD/2.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>Jerilynn Babington</div></div> <div><div>\$2,150,000</div><div>3370 Stage Coach Dr</div><div>4bd/4ba</div><div>Open Sun. 1-4</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div><div>Pamela Manning</div></div> <div><div>\$2,695,000</div><div>4007 Natasha Dr.</div><div>6BD/6.5BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div>Kim & Barbara Marienthal</div></div>	<div>Martinez</div> <div><div>\$409,000</div><div>394 Mill Rd.</div><div>2BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC</div><div>Cindy Tedmus</div></div>	<div>Moraga</div> <div><div>\$469,000</div><div>118 Ascot Court #B</div><div>2BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Intero Real Estate</div><div>Albert Bernardo</div></div> <div><div>\$859,000</div><div>1000 Sanders Drive</div><div>3BD/2BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Ford/Plowright</div></div>	<div>Oakland</div> <div><div>\$465-475,000</div><div>320 51st St #A,B,C,D</div><div>1BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC</div><div>Leslie Easterday</div></div> <div><div>\$295,000</div><div>5 W. Embarcadero #129</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div><div>Darrell How</div></div> <div><div>\$299,000</div><div>377 Palm Avenue, #102</div><div>1BD/1BA</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div>Helene Barkin</div></div> <div><div>\$299,950</div><div>851 Jean #410</div><div>1bd/1ba</div><div>Open Sun. 2-5</div><div>Prudential Piedmont</div><div>Aleso & Vickie</div></div> <div><div>\$300,000</div><div>2917 MacArthur Blvd.</div><div>Condo</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Help-U-Sell Action Properties</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$315,000</div><div>385 Jayne Ave #111</div><div>Adams Pl</div><div>Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Keller Williams</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$325,000</div><div>525 Mandana, #205</div><div>Grand Lake</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$325,000</div><div>673 Cary Ave.</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$349,000</div><div>401 Monte Vista #103</div><div>Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Widmeyer Real Estate</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$359,000</div><div>532 30th Street #5</div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$359,000</div><div>801 Franklin St #24</div><div>Sat 1-4:30</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$360,000</div><div>424 Staten #305</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential Montclair</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$369,000</div><div>3648 Grand #7</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Montclair Better Homes</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$379,000</div><div>1374 52nd Ave.</div><div>Sat 2-4:30</div><div>Alameda Realty</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$387,500</div><div>260 Caldecott Ln #126</div><div>Open Sun 1-5</div><div>Assist-2-Sell</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$395,000</div><div>1110 28th St</div><div>Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Widmeyer Real Estate</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$399,000</div><div>1209 90th St</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Montclair Better Homes</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$399,000</div><div>433 Caswell</div><div>Open Sun. 2-4:30</div><div>Montclair Better Homes</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$399,000</div><div>854 54th St</div><div>Sat. 2-4/Sun. 1-5</div><div>Prudential Montclair</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$399,000</div><div>930 Clay St. Unit M</div><div>Sun. 2-4 Condo/Co-Housing</div><div>Thornwall Properties</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$410,000</div><div>2222 57th Street</div><div>Open Sat 1-3</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$417,000</div><div>819 East 28th Street</div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$425,000</div><div>6425 Hillmont</div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$439,000</div><div>529 66th St</</div></div>
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Weekend OPEN HOMES Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated www.contracostatimes.com

Oakland			Oakland			Oakland			Pleasant Hill				
3328 Over St.	3 BD 2 BA 510-814-4892 Eunice Edwards	\$649,000	62 Sereno Circle Redwood Hills The Grubb Co.	2BD 2.5BA 510-339-0400 Debi DiMaggio	\$829,000	12 Westwood Ct Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Montclair Better Homes	2bd/2ba 510-339-8400 Nahid Nassiri	\$1,525,000	40 Seiborne Open Sat/Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker	3BD/3BA 510-339-4700 George Karsant	\$599,000	42 Alan Drive Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	3 BD 2 BA 510-882-2215 Agnes Wu
422 Appar Street	2+BD/1+BA 510-910-6713 Tara-Nichelle Nelson	\$665,500	3801 Laurel Ave Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	3bd/2ba 510-459-6309 Richard Tang	\$829,000	3375 Herrier St Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Prudential Montclair	3+bd/1.5ba 510-339-9290 Patricia Makinen	\$1,525,000	40 Seiborne Open Sat/Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker	3BD/3BA 510-339-4700 George Karsant	Richmond		
879 55th St	2+bd/1ba 510-280-2173 Amy Robeson	\$668,000	85 Thousand Oaks Open Sat/Sun 2-4 Zip Realty	3bd/2.5ba 925-330-0528 Kim Bowen	\$829,500	4845 Ceranum Place Sun 2-5 Redwood Heights Pacific Union Residential	2+BD/2BA 510-338-1368 Ashley O'Neill	\$1,595,000	1680 Grand View Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills The Grubb Co.	5BD 3.5BA 510-339-0400 Linda Mc Clain	\$375,000	115 Marina Way Sun 2-4 Central Richmond Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	2 BD 1 BA 510-748-1166 Rolando & Coqui Basora
3220 12th Avenue	4 BD/2 BA 510-919-5485 / 522-4633 John Bergman Beverly Fukuchi	\$679,000	3514 Woodruff Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	4BD/2BA 510-339-4700 David Eckert	\$830,000	2 Stauffer Ct Sat/Sun 1-5 Redwood Heights Windermere Real Estate	3bd/2ba 510-332-6220/984-2000 Chris Henry	\$1,599,000	6720 Elvert Drive Open Sun 2-5 Pacific Union Residential	4+BD/3 BA 510-338-1334 Vicki Woodhead	\$425,000	2545 Groveview Dr Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Red Oak Realty	2bd/2.5ba 510-280-2145 Virginia Jones
3221 61st Avenue	2+BD/1BA 510-569-3499 Brianna Fernandez	\$679,000	4311 Carson St Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Montclair Better Homes	2bd/1ba 510-339-8400 Regina Jacobs	\$839,000	4217 Howe St Sat & Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	3+BD/2 BA 510-384-0895 / 882-2215 Terry Kang & Agnes Wu	\$1,625,000	984 Longridge Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co.	4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Anthony Riggins	\$429,950	544-34th St Open Sun 2-4 North & East Security Pacific	2bd/1ba 510-662-8480 Michael J
3221 61st Avenue	2+BD/1BA 510-569-3499 Brianna Fernandez	\$679,000	3607 Glen Park Rd Sun 1-5 Glen View For Sale by owner	3BD/1BA 510-847-1910: 506-3217	\$839,000	5870 Ascot Dr Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Montclair Better Homes	4bd/2ba 510-339-8400 Patricia Bennett	\$1,649,500	6201 Virgo Road Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills The Grubb Co.	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 angela Wei Grubb	\$475,000	2610 Meadow Crest Ct Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Windermere Real Estate	2bd/2ba 510-506-2762/984-2000 Janet Kaplan
7741 Sterling Dr	2+bd/1ba 510-339-4000 Joe Ashton	\$689,000	1397 Barrows Rd Open Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands Prudential Grand Lake	2bd/1ba 510-834-2010 Sandy Wong	\$849,000	2323 Mastlands Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	3BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 David Eckert	\$1,690,000	5578 Lawton Avenue Open Sun 2-5 Pacific Union Residential	3BD/3.5 BA 510-338-1339 Gini Erck	\$479,000	536 Key Blvd Open Sun 2-4 Security Pacific	3bd/1ba 510-662-8558 www.carladelazoppa.com
4010 Brown Ave.	2BD/2BA 510-287-6789	\$689,000	355 Glendale Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Pacific Union Residential	2+BD/1.81A 510-338-1312 Martha Holstlaw	\$857,000	201 Crestmont Open Sat/Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker	3BD/2BA 510-339-4700 James Brown	\$1,695,000	96 Sheridan Rd Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge The Grubb Co.	6BD/4BA 510-339-0400 Debbie Dryden	\$479,000	845 35th St Open Sun 2-4:30 Marvin Gardens R.E.	3bd/2ba 510-527-9111 Todd Hodson/Ron Egberman
5336 Walnut St	2+bd/1+ba 510-336-0069 Adrian Michelle	\$689,000	420 57th Street Open Sun 1-5 Intero Real Estate Services	3+BD/1.81A 510-339-0227 Judy Swaby	\$858,000	191 Elysian Fields Open Sun 12-4 Sequoyah Heights Prudential Montclair	3bd/2ba 510-339-9290 Myrice Wong	\$1,725,000	5234 Cochran Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Pacific Union Residential	3+BD/2+1/BA 510-338-1382 Keith Tollas	\$498,000	788 34th St Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty	3 BD 1 BA 510-814-4879 Guinevere Holder
2230 E 24th St	3bd/1.5ba 510-318-1555 Truc Van	\$689,000	673 60th St Open Sun 2-4:30 No. Oakland Maison Nouveau	4bd/3ba 510-847-1248 Annalise Demuth	\$870,000	720-61st St Sun 2-4:30 Duplex (Berkeley Border) Prudential Montclair	5bd/3ba 510-339-9290 Lucetia Jacobs	\$1,895,000	50 Knoll Ridge Way Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills The Grubb Co.	5BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Hope Broderick	\$505,000	450 36th Street Open Sun 2-5 Alameda Realty	2+BD/1.5 BA 510-919-6974 Renate Kohlmann
320 Caldecott Ln #118	2bd/2ba 510-339-4000 Michael Harding	\$689,500	4457 Reinhardt Dr. Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Pacific Union Residential	3BD/2BA 510-338-1391 Dwight McClean	\$879,000	6019 Hillegras Ave. Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Pacific Union Residential	Duplex 510-338-1347/1346 R. Gould/J. Gould	\$1,895,000	6021 Acacia Ave Open Sun 2-4 JeansRealty.com	4+bd/2.5ba 510-406-6991 Diane Deutsche	\$549,950	5525 Sierra Ave Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific	3bd/2ba 510-662-8469 www.geristern.com
6031 Mauritania	3BD/1BA 510-569-7300 Adam Watts	\$690,000	421 E. 19th St Open Sun 2-4:30 Lake Merritt Keller Williams	510-595-7699 David Higgins	\$885,000	300 Jayne Open Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point Wells & Bennett Realtors	4BD/2BA 510-531-7000/235 Frank Henneker	\$1,930,000	11 Observation Pl. Open Sun 2-4:30 GMAC	4+BD/3+BA 510-338-1331 David Ichikawa	\$599,999	3028 Colette Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Hilltop Coldwell Banker	4BD 3BA 510-339-4700 Cl Boydston
8072 Winthrop	3bd/2ba 510-318-1555 Truc Van	\$699,000	124 Duncan Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair C21 Heritage	2BR/1.5BA 510-421-6818 Andrea Gordon	\$895,000	1827 Woodhaven Way Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Pacific Union GMAC	3BD/3BA 510-338-1356 Helen Danhaki	\$1,975,000	13402 Campus Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	5BD/5BA 510-339-4700 Michael Gallagher	\$625,000	22 Deep Water Ct Open Sun 2-4 Marina Bay Coldwell Banker	3BD/3BA 510-486-1495 Parviz Bagherzadeh
320 Caldecott Ln #321	2BD/2BA 510-610-5009/846-4141 Sally Han/Liz Kane	\$699,000	565 Bellevue #2106 Open Sun 2-5 Anthony Associates	2BD/2BA 510-701-3700 Tom Anthony	\$899,000	3231 Monterey Blvd Sun 1:00-4:30 Tucker Associates	4BD/3BA 925-548-7269 Bryan Denman	\$2,075,000	95 Westminster Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Pines The Grubb Co.	4+BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Nancy Lehrnd	\$625,900	5302 Fresno Ave Open Sun 1-4 (2 Units) Coldwell Banker	4bd/3ba 510-672-2362 Matha Cortez
2162 Harrington Ave	3bd/2ba 510-339-9290 Chris Hansen	\$719,000	4129 Maybelle Ave Open Sun 2-5 Laurel Heights Prudential Grand Lake	2+bd/3ba 510-834-2010 John Forrest Bell	\$925,000	2970 Shasta Rd Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Prudential Montclair	4bd/2ba 510-339-9290 Tami Bobb	\$2,195,000	5670 Weaver Place Open Sun 2-4:30 Hillcrest Estates The Grubb Co.	3+BD/3BA 510-339-0400 Kurt Buchholz	\$835,000	1015 Redhawk Ct Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels	4bd/2.5ba 510-691-1222 Sam Cheng
773 40th St #3	1+bd/1+ba 510-524-8888x26 Norah Brower	\$719,000	4237 Detroit Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Montclair Better Homes	2+bd/2ba 510-339-9290 Patricia Bennett	\$925,000	4190 Laguna Open Sun 2-5 Prudential Grand Lake	3bd/3ba 510-834-2010 Ellen Posey	\$2,495,000	7111 Norfolk Road Sat 6:30-8:30 pm/Sun 2-5 Pacific Union GMAC	4+BD/4.5 BA 510-338-1348 Fritz Hochfellner	\$647,500	1001 Lupine Ct Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels-Realtors	4BD/2.5BA 510-691-1222 Sam Cheng
415 Shafter Avenue	2BD/1BA 510-338-1304/335-1385 Dan Joy & Jeffrey Neideman	\$724,950	4070 Sequoyah Rd Sun 2-4:30 Sequoyah Heights Prudential Montclair	3bd/2.5ba 510-339-9290 Ed Marshall	\$945,000	5344 James Ave. Open Sun 1-5 Lawton Associates	3+BD/3BA 510-547-9970 x55 Ron Kriss	\$2,500,000	5935 Manchester Dr Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Pacific Union GMAC	4+BD/4+BA 510-338-1357 Francis Heise	\$657,000	1020 Landmark Ct. Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels-Realtors	4BD/2.5BA 510-691-1222 Sam Cheng
3877 Madrone Ave	2+bd/1ba 510-339-9290 Vicki Landes	\$725,000	177 Ridgeway Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Pacific Union Residential	3BD/2BA 510-338-1316 Joan Dark	\$949,000	5720 Buena Vista Avenue Open Sun 2-5 Upper Rockridge Coldwell Banker	3BD/2BA 510-339-4700 J. Joyce/K. S. Miller	\$2,600,000	6037 Skyline Blvd Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Prudential Montclair	4+bd/5ba 510-339-9290 Heidi Marchesotti	\$699,000	5200 Gordon Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Red Oak Realty	3bd/3ba 510-280-2179 Robin Gaskins
3030 M.L. King Jr.	4bd/1.5ba 510-851-6627 Shirley Covington	\$725,000	4400 Terrabella Pl Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Prudential Montclair	3bd/2.5ba 510-339-9290 Rick Richetta	\$979,000	515 Valle Vista Open Sun 2-4:30 Grand Lake C21 Heritage	3+BR/2 BA 510-339-8900 Tom Erwin	\$2,750,000	73 Beechwood Dr. Open Sun 2-4 Pacific Union GMAC	5BD/5BA 925-253-6223 Susan Peterson	\$725,000	11 Seabreeze Open Sun 2-5 Red Oak Realty	3bd/2.5ba 510-280-2149 Mark Lederer
8345 Key Ave	2+bd/1+ba 510-873-7753 Judy Williams	\$725,000	6845 Thornhill Dr. Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Pacific Union Residential	3BD/2.5BA 510-338-1337 Lori Lombardo	\$995,000	1715 Alhambra Lane Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair The Grubb Co.	4BD/3BA 510-339-0400 anne Van Dyke	Price Upon Request 3225 Liese Ave Open Sat/Sun 12:30-4 Intero Real Estate Services	2+BD/2BA 925-330-4257 Sarah Arnold	\$727,000	104 Waterview Dr Open Sun 1-4 Richmond Marina Security Pacific	3bd 3ba 510-662-8545 Michele Manzone	
3959 Huntington	2+BD/1+BA 510-444-3300 Lee Grebmeler	\$739,000	3585 Monterey Blvd. Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Hts. Pacific Union GMAC	3BD/2BA 510-338-1332 Jane Strauch	\$995,000	525 Forest St Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Montclair Better Homes	DUPLEX 510-339-8400 Caroline Peters	\$1,695,000	55 Oakwood Road Open Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC	4BD/2BA 925-253-6209 Nancy Rothman	\$729,000	70 Southwind Cir Open Sun 2-5 Red Oak Realty	3bd/2.5ba 510-280-2156 Susan Grant
2527 Florida St	3bd/1ba 510-845-0211 Adrianne Nash	\$739,000	4107 Lyman Rd Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Oakmore Prudential Montclair	2+bd/1.5ba 510-339-9290 Kris Makris	\$998,000	65 Eastwood Ct Open Sat/Sun 2-5 Montclair Real Estate Exchange	3+bd/3.5ba 510-638-0843 Louis Stayer	\$1,770,000	24 Orchard Rd. Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker	5BD/4BA 925-253-4601 Jerrilyn Babinington	\$739,000	3657 Park Ridge Dr. Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels	4BD/3BA 510-691-1222 Sam Cheng
294 Perkins St	2bd/1ba 510-595-7699 Dave Higgins	\$739,000	4682 Redwood Road Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills Pacific Union GMAC	3BD/2.5BA 510-338-1345 Bob Nelson	\$1,045,000	4026-28 West Street Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Coldwell Banker	5BD/3.5BA 510-486-1495 Catherine Varnau	\$1,900,000	16 Snow Court Open Sun 1-5 Park Place R.E.	5BD/4BA 925-254-7782 Henry Gannett	\$785,000	6 Seabreeze Open Sun 2-5 Red Oak Realty	3bd/2.5ba 510-280-2121 Katie Lederer
3966 Alhambra Ave.	4 BD/2 BA 510-507-3334 Therese Herget	\$749,000	6670 Sobrante Rd Open Sun 2-4:30 Red Oak Realty	3bd/2.5ba 510-280-2185 Adrienne Broche	\$1,049,000	721 Trestle Glen Road Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co.	4BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson	\$1,900,000	116 Arbor Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Keller Williams	3bd/2ba 510-595-7699 Dave Higgins	\$786,000	3642 Park Ridge Dr. Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels-Realtors	5BD/3BA 510-691-1222 Sam Cheng
4319 Shafter Ave.	2+BD/1BA 510-531-7000x292 Carol Robbiano	\$749,000	1415 Barrows Rd Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands Prudential Piedmont	2bd/2ba 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson	\$1,049,000	953 Grosvenor Pl Open Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands Prudential CA Realty	3+bd/3+ba 510-834-2010 Dolores Thom	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$1,695,000	34 Belvedere Avenue Open Sun 1-4 Pacific Union Residential	4BD 4BA 510-338-1374 Donna DeBardi
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	4048 Coolidge Open Sun 2-4:30 Lincoln Heights Montclair Better Homes	3bd/2ba 510-339-8400 Caroline Peters	\$1,085,000	1061 Hubert Road Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co.	3BD/1.5BA 510-339-0400 Julie Gardner	\$1,900,000	1755 Trestle Glen Road Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Mindy Scott	\$785,000	739 Bridge Rd. 5BD/2 Full BAs 2 1/2-BAs Open Sun 1-4pm Coldwell Banker	3bd 3ba 510-583-5455 Agent Ron Sages
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	2534 10th Avenue Open Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Ivy Hill Coldwell Banker	4BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Alicia Drake	\$1,095,000	1609 Leimert Blvd. Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakmore Pacific Union Residential	4BD/3.5BA 510-338-1355 Donna Costella	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	715-717 Rand Ave Sun 2-4:30 Grand Lake (Duplex) Prudential Montclair	4bd/3ba 510-339-9290 Bill Boze	\$1,100,000	361 Warwick Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 Adams Pt Pacific Union GMAC	5BD/3BA 510-338-1370 Erika Celestre	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	13225 Slope Crest Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix	\$1,150,000	5836 Lawton Ave. Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Pacific Union Residential	3+BD/2 BA 510-338-1370 Lorri Arazzi	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	3664 Monterey Blvd. Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Pacific Union Residential	3+BD/1.5BA 510-338-1305 Teri Carlisle	\$1,185,000	1099 Longridge Road Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands Coldwell Banker	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Dian Hymer	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	4867 Reinhardt Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Prudential Grand Lake	3bd/2.5ba 510-834-2010 Henriette Lanier-Green	\$1,195,000	6117 Fairlane Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker	4BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Liat Bostick	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	1421 Barrows Rd Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential	3BD/1BA 510-338-1385 Jeffrey Neideman	\$1,195,000	6117 Fairlane Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker	4BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Liat Bostick	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	2526 Hearst (off Lincoln) Open Sun 1-4 Chang & Hardeman	5BD/2+BA 510-482-3800	\$1,200,000	1835 Tunnel Rd Sun 2-4 Kane & Assoc.	4 BD/4.5 BA 510-789-1845/213-0517 Rosemary McNally/Kathy Walton	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	12835 Brookpark Ave Open Sun 2-4 Campbell Properties	3+BD/2+BA 510-889-7870 Doug	\$1,245,000	2531 Chelsea Dr Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Keller Williams	5bd/5ba 510-595-7699 Dave Higgins	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	14 Chambers Lane Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker	3BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Joan Duffield	\$1,245,000	621 Hillgirt Circle Open Sun 2-4:30 Haddon Hill The Grubb Co.	4+BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Judith Cain	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors	4BD 2BA 510-899-8000 Karol Schonian
4319 Shafter Ave.	2BD/2BA 925-352-5527 Michelle Ford	\$749,000	6165 Skyline Blvd Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair The Grubb Co.	4BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Susanne Paul	\$1,259,000	1836 Drake Drive Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Prudential Montclair	3bd/2.5ba 510-339-9290 Patricia Makinen	\$1,900,000	107 Sunnyside Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Angela Wei Grubb	\$785,000	2102 Hillside Open Sun 2	

ALAMEDA



1511 PACIFIC AVENUE \$475,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 1-4
 Cozy Cottage is wonderful condo/TIC alternative. Practically rebuilt with many repairs. New bath fixtures, Berber/Pergo floors, two sheds and more! Expansion possibilities.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Pacita Dimacall 510-748-1148
Lainie Acacio 510-748-1172



2 ROWE COURT \$850,000
West End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Ready to move in beautiful 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home w/new paint inside, new landscaping and a wonderful floor plan. Family room, fireplace & appliances stay. Could be a 4 bedroom home.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Signe Nelson 510-748-1103
Ms. "Sam" McDowell 510-748-1131



1715 OTIS DRIVE \$895,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Rare one level ranch style home on lagoon with spectacular views. 3 bedroom, 2 bath freshly painted inside and new carpets throughout.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108
Al Wagner 510-748-1123



1208 HIGH STREET \$687,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Charm throughout in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath w/fully upgraded kitchen & permitted addition that can be bedroom/den. Hardwood floors, landscaped rear yard, deck & much more.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Angela McIntyre 510-748-1121



451 CENTRAL AVENUE \$679,000
West End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Two 1 bedroom units w/lots of upgrades, updated kitchen w/granite counter tops, updated bathrooms & electrical, newer roof, approved permits for additions & LOTS MORE!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108



1626-1628 ALAMEDA AVENUE \$1,169,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Colonial Revival duplex w/pocket doors, wainscoting, hardwood floors, coved ceilings and built-in cabinets. Lots of space! Brick-in courtyard garden. Plus rooms and much more!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Michele Poulter 510-748-1157
Dave Park 510-748-1198



3216 RAVENS COVE LANE \$649,500
Ravens Cove Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Completely updated 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Ravens Cove town home featuring water views from living room and master bedroom. Hurry won't last long!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108
Steve DiGiulio 510-748-1171

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No obligation, no hassle.

Call us at (510)521-8181 with your real estate questions

ALAMEDA



339 BROADWAY #203 \$449,500
East End Open Sunday 1-4
 Move in ready 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo w/ views of the lagoon & pool from balcony! 1 block to beach, transportation & Towne Centre. Owners are looking for quick sale.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Mario & Wendy Mariani 510-748-1174



431 COLA BALLENA \$1,050,000
Ballena Bay Open Sunday 2-4
 40' deep water dock & house on S.F. Bay! RARE! Enjoy the vacation lifestyle of this house on a small island that is the Bay Areas best-kept secret. Views of Bay, mountains & city lights.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Ruth Masonok 510-748-1101



1619 MORELAND DRIVE \$930,000
Fernside/Edison Area Open Sunday 2-4
 New 3 bedroom, 2 bath listing featuring formal living & dining rooms, fireplace, country kitchen w/nook. Also has family room, laundry room, plus room, backyard, tool shed & MUCH MORE!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Signe Nelson 510-748-1103
Troy Staten 510-748-1125



1405 BUENA VISTA AVENUE \$885,000
Central Alameda Open Sunday 2-4
 Luxurious & sensational. Adaptable 3-4 bedroom home w/100K upgrades: digital communication/security system, surround sound, granite counters & MORE!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Pacita Dimacall 510-748-1148
Iris Murillo 510-748-1105



437 SHEFFIELD ROAD \$719,500
Sand Piper Cove By Appointment Only
 Rare one level Sand Piper Cove 2 bedroom, 2 bath w/atrium. Low maintenance rear yard fully decked with hot tub and plenty of greenery.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108

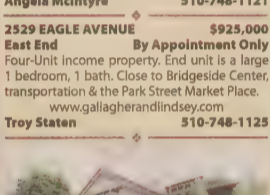


311 LAGUNA VISTA AVENUE \$785,000
Bay View Estates By Appointment Only
 This 2 bedroom, 2 bath single level home has a completely remodeled kitchen with all new appliances. The lagoon views are a must see!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Al Wagner 510-748-1123

ALAMEDA



2394 MARINER SQUARE #D9 \$455,000
Mariner Square By Appointment Only
 Charming 2 full bedroom, 2 full bath FLOATING HOME! Top deck with 360 degree view. Built-in washer and dryer included. Pride of ownership is evident throughout this adorable home.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Angela McIntyre 510-748-1121



2529 EAGLE AVENUE \$925,000
East End By Appointment Only
 Four-Unit income property. End unit is a large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to BridgeSide Center, transportation & the Park Street Market Place.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Troy Staten 510-748-1125



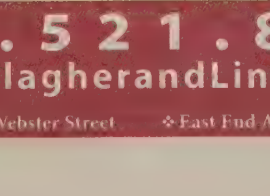
1200 SAN ANTONIO AVENUE \$2,850,000
Gold Coast By Appointment Only
 One of the largest and most magnificent homes in Alameda's historic Gold Coast is here. With over 6000 sq. ft. of living space on four levels, this turn-of-the-century original is by appointment only.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Don Lindsey 510-521-8181



1557 FOURTH STREET \$525,000
Western Division By Appointment Only
 Quaint as quaint is! A storybook cottage with its mixture of six rooms and two baths awaits your creative arrangements of use.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Miss "Sam" McDowell 510-748-1131



2101 SHORELINE DRIVE #247 \$498,888
The Willows By Appointment Only
 Seldom-available 2 bedroom, 2 bath one level condo w/courtyard view, remodeled kitchen, granite counter tops, new cabinetry & more!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Virginia Ambrosini 510-748-1138



1238 VERSAILLES AVENUE \$2,350,000
East End By Appointment Only
 Charming bed & breakfast, declared a City Historical Monument. Elegant guest rooms, commercial kitchen, LR seats 32, deck seats 44, garden seats 75, upgrades & more to see!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Evelyn Kennedy 510-748-1120

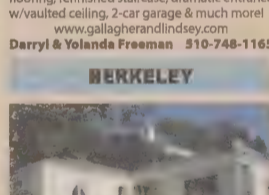
ALAMEDA



891-895 CEDAR STREET \$1,250,000
3216-2220 CLINTON AVENUE
 Just listed 6 large units. Three 2 bedroom & 1 bath, two 1+ bedroom & 1 bath, and one 1 bedroom & 1 bath. A lot of natural wood built-ins, hardwood floors, newer roof & MORE!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Jack Cooley 510-748-1109



4135 DONNER COURT \$575,000
Wild Horse By Appointment Only
 Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 full bath home w/bonus sitting room! Loaded w/upgrades such as: new flooring, refinished staircase, dramatic entrance w/vaulted ceiling, 2-car garage & much more!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Darryl & Yolanda Freeman 510-748-1165



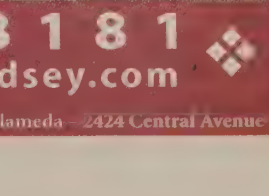
60 FOREST LANE \$790,000
Berkeley Hills By Appointment Only
 Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath home w/ panoramic Bay views & many upgrades. Well cared for, bright & airy floor plan, remodeled kitchen, lush backyard and elevated deck.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Ty Weichhart 510-748-1118



2811 ABBEYDALE COURT \$569,000
Shadow Lakes Area Open Sunday 1-4
 Beautiful single story home w/designer colors throughout, many extras, golf, shopping, schools & transportation. Seller has purchased another home and is very motivated.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Mario & Wendy Mariani 510-748-1174



1751 LIBERTY STREET #105 \$420,000
Cerrito Park Terrace By Appointment Only
 Come see this beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo located in the heart of El Cerrito. Close to school, shopping, hwy 80 and walking distance to BART.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Eric Tam 510-748-1135

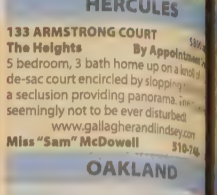


141 PLAYA DEL REY \$420,000
Rafael Bay By Appointment Only
 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath end unit in excellent condition. Across from Bay Point, walking paths at Lagoon. Living & dining remodeled kitchen, private yard & more!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Evelyn Kennedy 510-748-1120

HAYWARD



25719 SPRING DRIVE \$420,000
Near CSU East Bay Open Sunday 1-4
 Last unit! Views across Bay from the front porch. Renovated 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full laundry. Impress your friends and family. HOA too.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Dave Park 510-748-1198
Kirk Knight 510-748-1172



133 ARMSTRONG COURT \$180,000
The Heights By Appointment Only
 5 bedroom, 3 bath home up on a level of de-sac court encircled by sloping hills. A seclusion providing panoramic views, seemingly not to be ever disturbed.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Miss "Sam" McDowell 510-748-1131



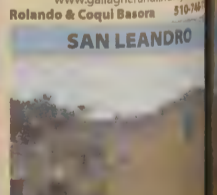
2449 E 21ST STREET \$510,000
East Oakland Open Sunday 1-4
 Totally renovated 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. New roof, kitchen & baths. Hardwood floors throughout. 3 car detached garage with driveway. Large lot with potential for more.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Kitty Wan 510-748-1109



925 E 19TH STREET \$610,000
Oakland By Appointment Only
 Turn of the century 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in great condition with city view. Featuring room, dining room, fireplace in living room of storage & basement w/new foundation.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108



783 65TH STREET \$560,000
Oakland Border By Appointment Only
 Great surprise in space when you enter bedroom cottage on Oakland/Berkeley border. Beautiful untouched wood in LR & formal. Big bright kitchen, deck & lovely back yard.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Ruth Masonok 510-748-1101



0 GLENHURST DRIVE \$260,000 \$210,000
Montclair By Appointment Only
 Two adjacent parcels in the Oakland area. Its unique atmosphere prevails, providing quietness w/occasional disturbance of nature.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Ms. "Sam" McDowell 510-748-1131



2312 E 15TH STREET \$1,000,000
Oakland By Appointment Only
 Investor alert! 8 units recently sold with 11.5GRM, 5.2 CAP. Please do not miss.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Kirk Knight 510-748-1172



115 MARINA WAY \$510,000
Richmond Open Sat & Sun 1-4
 Nice home in move-in condition. 3 bedroom, 1 bath & covered garage w/hardwood floors and wood deck w/BBQ. Conveniently located near BART and shopping.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Rolando & Coqui Basora 510-748-1109

SAN LEANDRO



245 GARCIA AVENUE \$510,000
Broadmoor By Appointment Only
 Take another look at this 3 bedroom bathroom home!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Mary Ann Herber 510-748-1109
Sharon Greene 510-748-1109

SAN LORENZO



969 VIA MANZANITAS \$530,000
San Lorenzo Village By Appointment Only
 Must see! Beautiful 3 bedroom, 1 bath on quiet tree-lined street. Enchanting! boasts a koi pond with a tranquil waterfall.
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Sandi Hamilton 510-748-1109
Lisa Perry 510-748-1109

SAN RAFAEL



141 PLAYA DEL REY \$420,000
Rafael Bay By Appointment Only
 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath end unit in excellent condition. Across from Bay Point, walking paths at Lagoon. Living & dining remodeled kitchen, private yard & more!
 www.gallagherandlindsey.com
Evelyn Kennedy 510-748-1120

510.521.8181
www.GallagherandLindsey.com

West End Alameda - 1410 Webster Street East End Alameda - 2424 Central Avenue

Around the horn

Hoops showdown in Sactown

The first annual Sac vs. Bay Showdown high school boys and girls basketball games will take place June 30 and July 1 at Capital Christian High School in Sacramento. The showdown starts at 2 p.m. with the sophomore and junior girls game, sophomore and junior boys game at 4 p.m., seniors girls at 6 p.m. and senior boys at 8 p.m.

The senior boys Bay team includes Robert Owens (Skyline). The senior girls Bay squad includes Chazny Morris (Piedmont), Myleka Emerson (El Cerrito), Christina Thomas (St. Mary's), Courtney Dunn (St. Mary's) and Shometa Crain-Williams (El Cerrito). The sophomore and junior boys Bay team includes Will Brew (St. Mary's). The sophomore and junior girls Bay team includes Casey Morris (Piedmont), Alexandria Mitchell (Berkeley) and Jennifer Gross (Berkeley).

Admission is \$10 for adults and children are free. Tickets are available after June 1. For more information, log on to www.sacvs-bayshowdown.com.

— Dave Carpenter

What a triple!

Holy Names High School track and field star Myleka Richardson won three individual events at the Bay Shore Athletic League championships, and two of the marks rank in the top 10 in the state. She triple-jumped 41 feet, 3 3/4 inches, which entering last week would be the No. 2 mark in the nation for high school girls, according to DyeStatCal.com. The junior also long-jumped 18-10 1/4, which entering last week would be tied for ninth in the nation for high school girls, according to DyeStatCal.com. On the track, Richardson won the 100 meters in 12:50 seconds.

— Phil Jensen

Up and coming

The Encinal High School track and field team had an impressive showing under first-year coach Mary Sutter at the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League Championships on May 12 at Berkeley. The Jets' boys team finished second with 75 points, 74 points behind Alameda. The girls team finished third with 39 points, 184 points behind Alameda. The Jets had three boys win a gold medal and will send nine qualifiers to Saturday's North Coast Section Bay Shore Area Championships at James Logan. The Encinal girls team will send four qualifiers to the Bay Shore meet.

— Robert Jordan

On Deck

North Coast Section Bay Shore Area championships, track and field, at James Logan, May 19, 11 a.m. — The top four finishers at the Mission Valley Athletic League championships, the Hayward Area Athletic League championships, the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League championships and the BSAL championships qualified for the meet. Field events begin at 11 a.m., and track events start at noon.

St. Mary's at Albany, softball, May 19, 3:30 p.m. — Both teams could use a win in this game to help them at the NCS seeding meeting.

Alameda at Encinal, baseball, May 19, 3:30 p.m. — In the first meeting, Alameda's Jordan Brown and Encinal's Zach Boyd squared off in a pitcher's duel with the Hornets taking a 3-0 victory. Pries had 10 strikeouts and gave up two hits. Boyd had six strikeouts and gave up four hits.

Encinal at Alameda, softball, May 19, 3:30 p.m. — Behind Kimmie Mesa, the Hornets beat the Jets 2-1 in the first meeting on April 26. Encinal pitched a two-hitter and helped her cause by going 2-for-3 with a home run and two RBIs.

Stars of the week

Jason Bennett, Albany baseball — The senior led a three-hitter with 13 strikeouts and just one walk as the Cougars defeated Salesian 3-0. Bennett was 2-for-2 with two RBIs and a run scored in a 14-1 win over Kennedy.

Artie Stewart, St. Mary's boys track and field — Stewart won the 110-meter high hurdles (27.20 seconds) and high jump (5 feet, 10 inches) at the BSAL championship meet.

Mark Severy, El Cerrito baseball — Severy went 2-for-2 with three RBIs in a 7-2 victory over Hercules.

Chris Shepherd, Encinal boys track and field — Shepherd won the boys triple jump at the ACCAL Championships with a leap of 36-4. Shepherd also was fourth in the 400 with a time of 1:22 on May 12 at Berkeley.

Liz Cornejo and Nandi Davis, Skyline girls soccer — Cornejo, a senior, scored two goals and assisted on another in the Titans' 3-1 win over Oakland Tech on Monday. Sophomore Davis contributed a goal and an assist.

Sabri Siegelman, Head-Royce girls soccer — Siegelman still has many critics around the country, but the sophomore's performance in the Bay Shore Athletic League-East playoff final against Bentley was enough to amaze even the staunchest critics.

— by the time the game was little more than minutes old, no less — she did it with flair and grace as the Jayhawks cruised to a 6-0 win.

Fane Gamal and Laura Terry-Green, Head-Royce girls soccer — Siegelman provided the backbone of the team this year. The two seniors provided experience, leadership and clutch play. Such was the case against Bentley, when Gamal scored a goal and provided two assists.



ST. MARY'S Sarah Brajkovich finished second in the discus at the BSAL championship meet, which helped the Panthers win the team title.

DOUG DURAN/STAFF

Relay teams lead way for Panthers

■ St. Mary's sweep in the relays paves the way for BSAL championship

STAFF REPORT

The St. Mary's High School girls track and field team swept the relays en route to winning the overall team title at the Bay Shore Athletic League championships on Saturday at Piedmont.

The Panthers finished with 164 points to second-place Holy Names' 73. St. Mary's 400-meter relay team had a time of 49.94 seconds, and its 1,600 relay squad clocked a time of 4:18.55. The Panthers' Brittney Domine won the 300 low hurdles (47.05 seconds) and teammate Christina Johnson took first in the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches).

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ROUNDUP

Albany also had its share of winners. Rebecca Molinari won BSAL titles in the shot put (35-10) and discus (129-8). Asma Mohammadi was the 1,600 champion (5:41.35). Albany finished third as a team with 65 points.

Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League championships: Berkeley's Tadaysha DeWalt and Michelle Miller won individual field event titles at Berkeley on Thursday. DeWalt won the shot put title with a mark of 32-10 1/4. Miller was first in the long jump (16-5 1/4). On Friday at Berkeley, Whitney McGee won the 200-meter title (25.22). Berkeley finished fourth as a team with 38 points. El Cerrito, which received a second-place finish in the shot put from Breanna White

(29-9 1/4), was fifth as a team with 24 points. The Gauchos' Eloycia Ratliff added a second-place finish in the 400 (1:01.43).

SOFTBALL

St. Mary's 19, Holy Names 1: The Panthers scored 11 runs in the top of the first inning in this second game of a doubleheader Tuesday. Margo Winton was 4-for-4 with two runs scored for the Panthers (10-5, 9-4 BSAL at press time).

St. Mary's 10, Holy Names 0: Bijou Felder hurled a six-inning no-hitter with six strikeouts and no walks on Tuesday. Teammate Courtney Moore was 3-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI for the host Panthers.

Hercules 8, El Cerrito 0: Despite a 2-for-2 performance at the plate by Valerie Miller, the visiting Gauchos (3-8 ACCAL at press time) could not overcome the Titans on Monday.

Hercules 5, El Cerrito 4: The host Gauchos were unable to overcome a 5-0 deficit in this game on Friday.

Berkeley 15, Richmond 0: Sarah Neuhaus threw a one-hitter in this three-inning game on Friday at Richmond.

St. Mary's 4, John Swett 1: Felder fired a five-hitter with five strikeouts, and Paige Freiburger was 2-for-3 with a run scored in the second game of a doubleheader Friday at Lefty Gomez Field in Rodeo.

St. Mary's 3, John Swett 0: Felder threw a three-hitter and Freiburger smashed a double in this win on Friday.

Salesian 3, Albany 2: All the scoring in this game on Friday was done in the first three innings. Joan Cannon was 2-for-2 with two RBIs for visiting Albany (11-7, 10-6 BSAL at press time).

Duke case is a stain on lacrosse

WHEN COVERING East Bay high school boys lacrosse — namely, Bishop O'Dowd, Berkeley, St. Mary's, Piedmont, College Prep and Head-Royce — the same image comes to mind. That of well-grounded kids honing their skills while exuding spirit, dedication and determination in a physical sport.

Given this image, it came as a shock when reports of the now-ongoing scandal involving the Duke University men's team first made news.

For those that missed it, a 27-year old stripper claimed she was raped at an off-campus team party on March 13. Tensions reportedly run high on and around the Duke campus in Durham, N.C., as the accuser — a single mother and a student at nearby North Carolina Central University — is African-American and all but one of Duke's 47 men's lacrosse players is white. To date, three players — all white — have been charged, and the school has canceled its men's lacrosse season.

Though the allegations have yet to be proven, the case is just the latest — though the most serious — scrape with the law for some Duke lacrosse players. At least 15 Duke players have arrest records, mostly for alcohol-related offenses. One of the players arrested in the rape case, however, also faces assault charges for the alleged beating of a man in Washington, D.C., in November. More recent reports about the alleged March 13 rape victim also filed a police report in 1996 accusing three former Duke lacrosse players of gang rape in 1993, though she never pressed charges on those allegations.

Stories by East Coast writers tell of a team — and a sport — run amok. They tell of a sport derived from a Native American game and now dominated by privileged players from well-heeled families. They tell of spoiled rich kids with a



MIKE MCGREEHAN
Staff writer

sense of entitlement. They tell of a sporting mentality that seems worlds away from the West Coast lacrosse.

Though the only reports of misconduct and alleged misconduct have come out of Duke, they have generated a publicity that the sport did not want, creating a guilty-by-association perception for lacrosse players everywhere.

"That thing that's happening at Duke University is horrible for the game," Bishop O'Dowd boys coach Wayne Shaffer says. "What happened there is a stain that's not going to go away."

"I think it does (hurt the sport), unfortunately," agrees Berkeley High boys coach Mike Costanzo, "because it's the fastest-growing sport in North America."

We have no data to either confirm or argue the latter, though we can safely say lacrosse's popularity has soared in the Bay Area during the past decade. Those of us covering the high school and youth games in this area see a sport with many possibilities, an athletic activity with much movement and excitement.

Furthermore, the players comport themselves well, making the broad generalizations stemming from the Duke scandal most unfair. Still, stereotypes persist.

"That privilege of Eastern prep school lacrosse is not what we've got going (at Bishop O'Dowd)," says Shaffer, who himself embodies west-of-

the-Mississippi lacrosse.

A Denver native, Shaffer graduated from that city's South High School and continued playing at Colorado State University. Upon coming to the Bay Area, he hooked up with a club in Berkeley, served as a coach at Cal, and now is in his ninth season as O'Dowd's boys coach. The Duke scandal aside, Shaffer and fellow coaches acknowledge that lacrosse has much to do to gain wider acceptance.

"One thing that happens here is that it's a white kids' sport," Shaffer says. "We're trying to break through and get more diversity on the team, a better representation of the school."

A goal easier envisioned than accomplished, for sure, as lacrosse is not the most inexpensive sporting passion to pursue.

"I'd like to see it become a game played more in the inner cities," Costanzo adds, "but money plays a part of how good your team is."

Any attempt to expand lacrosse's appeal is worthwhile, but the news out of Duke will only make the job harder.

The stories from Durham, N.C., tell of athletes behaving badly. They tell of misogyny, privilege and a sense of entitlement with racial overtones. All of it seems so far removed from the game played here.

Ultimately, those accused might be found not guilty or have the charges against them dismissed. A medical examination determined that injuries suffered by the stripper were consistent with rape, but no DNA evidence connects any Duke team members to the alleged crime. Still, one suspects that, at the very least, something terribly distasteful took place at that March 13 party in Durham, N.C.

Regardless of how the case turns out, nobody connected to it will escape unscathed. Fair or not, that includes the sport of lacrosse itself and all who play and coach it.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ROUNDUP

Albany's Bennett on the money

By Dave Carpenter
STAFF WRITER

A goal for any pitcher is to throw strikes. Albany High School's Jason Bennett threw 66 of his 89 pitches for strikes Friday against Salesian at Cougar Field.

Consider that goal accomplished. Bennett struck out 13, walked just one and allowed only three singles as the Cougars maintained their lead over the Chieftains in the Bay Shore Athletic League with a 3-0 victory.

Albany (15-4-1, 11-2 BSAL) had only four singles but was able to take advantage of the few opportunities it had in upending Salesian (12-9, 10-4).

Chieftains pitcher Daniel Alcaire was pretty effective in allowing those four hits over six innings, but his defense committed three errors.

Bennett was more than just pretty good, though. "He was dominating," Albany coach Jim Giblin said. "He was tough. When he gets in that groove, it's fun to watch."

Run for Albany. Not so much for Salesian. The Cougars scored in each of the first two innings to give Bennett a bit of a cushion.

In the first inning, Kyle Shipley singled and later moved to third on a Fred Atkins hit. He then scored on Bennett's ground out.

In the second, Kyle Azi singled, advanced to second on a walk to Gabe Pressnall and scored on a single by Zach Babbit.

Tom Supple drove in Atkins in the fifth with a two-out single that capped the scoring.

Albany 20, St. Elizabeth 1: The host Cougars (16-4-1, 12-2 BSAL at press time) scored 10 runs in the second inning to take total control of this game on Monday. Ricky Agulara was 3-for-4 with three runs scored and four RBIs for Albany.

El Cerrito 7, Hercules 2: Doug Murray and Mario Hollands combined for a five-hitter for the Gauchos (15-4, 11-1 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time) and teammate Mark Severy was 2-for-2 with three RBIs for the hosts on Friday.

California 5, Berkeley 2: The Grizzlies scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take control of Monday's nonleague game. Derrick Mitchell was 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI for the Yellow Jackets (8-11-1).

Berkeley 13, Richmond 0: Dante Williams and Greg Lorentzen combined for a one-hitter on Friday, and the host Yellow Jackets (7-5 ACCAL at

NOW PLAYING

"KEELAH AND THE BEE": Akeelah (Lake Palmer), a young African-American girl, is an underachiever who re-enters the school's spelling bee. Conflicts erupt in this feel-good melodrama, with Laurence Fishburne as her spelling coach. **A** Butler (PG-13: language) 1 hour, 52 minutes. **B**

"AN AMERICAN HAUNTING": This supernatural tale loses much of its horror potential amid the frenzied violence and screaming vocalizations used to re-create horrors wrought by an unwelcome presence tormenting a family in the early 1800s. With Sissy Spacek, Donald Sutherland and Rachel Hurd-Wood. — **D** Garman. (PG-13: intense terror sequences, thematic material) 1 hour, 12 minutes. **C+**

"SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL": This comic skewering of art school life strokes of genius but is too slow for its own good. Bay Area director Terry Zwigoff ("Ghost World," "Dead Snow") and screenwriter David Sorenson are off their marks in the second re-teaming. — **R** Myers. (PG-13: language, including sexual references, nudity, a scene of violence) 1 hour, 42 minutes. **C+**

"THE BENCHWARMERS": David Spade and Jon Heder are two virtual nerds whose lifetime of getting teased is avenged when they find their pal, Gus (Rob Schneider), a former bully, is back in town. A series of humiliations, crochets, tequila-benders and nerd revenge are your thing, by all means. — **R** Myers. (PG-13: crude and suggestive humor, language) 1 hour, 20 minutes. **D**

"CHECK": A film noir set mostly in a Southern California high school. Lifetime director Rian Johnson directs, singing, paying homage to the styles of the past, while adding contemporary spin. Joseph Gordon-Levitt is excellent as a tough-talking kid out to nab his ex-girlfriend's car. — **R** Myers. (R: violence, drug content) 1 hour, 50 minutes.

"DRAWING RESTRAINT 9": Barney's stately, ritualistic takes place mostly on a Japanese whaling ship where the artist co-star Bjork undergoes elaborate preparations for a traditional wedding. (Coincides with an upcoming Barney exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.) **H** Holden. (Not rated.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. **B+**

"FRIENDS WITH MONEY": A quartet of marvelous actresses — Frances McDormand, Catherine Keener, Joan Cusack and Jennifer Aniston — shine in this wry and obnoxious comedy-drama about a group of Southern California women living in life, mates and money in the lack of it. — **R** Myers. (R: drug use, some sexual situations) 1 hour, 28 minutes.

"THE DREAM BEGINS": This cleverly pitched film about a Mexican soccer player realizing his dream in England. Kuno Becker's charisma is worth watching, but on camera — **R** Myers. (PG: language, sexual situations, some thematic material) 1 hour, 58 minutes. **C**

"NOT": Three Florida middle-schoolers unite to stop a restaurant from being built on land where endangered owls roost. Adapted from bestselling Carl Hiaasen book, the marginally successful film does not do its young audience. — **R** Myers. (PG: mild bullying, brief language) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **C+**

"THE MELTDOWN": The friends — Manny the limo, Sid the sloth and Diego the baboon-footed tiger — head out on a journey to find an ark as an ice storm surrounds their village. Intense to buckle. Sound moral lessons for the kiddies, and the animation is better than the screenplay. — **R** Myers. (PG: some mild language, innuendo.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. **C+**

"THE MAN": This clever heist film not only jumpstarts director John Lee's career, but revitalizes the genre. Four robbers (Clive Owen among them), take nearly 50 minutes to arrive at a Manhattan hotel, with Denzel Washington as the negotiator on the scene. — **R** Myers. (R: language, some violent content) 2 hours, 9 minutes. **A-**

"JUST MY LUCK": In this waltz little comedy, Lindsay Lohan is a too-good-to-be-pretty P.R. firm functionary who owes her success to her polar opposite, a janitor in a bowling alley. He crashes her VIP party and, in a twist, they exchange luck. — **R** Myers. (PG: some mild language, innuendo.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. **C**

"THE LOST CITY": Andy Garcia's is the Havana of pre-communism. Cuba is a romantic epic that isn't say much. His character, who is living the high life as owner of the revolution nightclub, is a revolution sweeps in. His younger brothers fervently embrace it, but Fico predicts the counter-revolution under Castro. — **S** Myers. (R: violence.) 2 hours, 23 minutes. **C**

"THE SUPER AGENT": Ethan Hunt returns for his most complicated big-screen mission going after a deadly arms dealer (Philip Seymour Hoffman), who with intense action, snappy dialogue and great performances, takes control at the end, but

not quite. — **R** Myers. (PG-13: intense sequences of violence and menace, disturbing images, some sexuality.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. **B+**

"POSEIDON": The 1972 upside-down luxury liner disaster classic "The Poseidon Adventure" was all about action, not the characters. But this remake goes the opposite way. Bad movie. Instead of Shelley Long and Richard Dreyfuss. Hollow and boring. — **R** Myers. (PG-13: intense prolonged sequences of disaster and peril.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. **C-**

"THE PROMISE": The director of "Farewell My Concubine" brings to vibrant life this tragic fable about a loyal slave, a dishonest general and a woman who makes a pact with a water goddess. So drop-dead gorgeous you almost forgive its flaws. — **R** Myers. (PG-13: stylized violence and martial arts action, some sexual content.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. **B-**

"RV": "A slap-happy comedy starring Robin Williams as a soft-drink executive who, when a deal is about to go sour, rents an RV and takes the wife and kids on the road. — **R** Moore. (PG: crude humor, innuendo, language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. **B**

"THE SENTINEL": This hyped thriller delivers the goods. A Secret Service agent (Michael Douglas) is having an affair with the First Lady (Kim Basinger). Then things get crazy, and he's being investigated by another agent (Donald Sutherland). Eva Longoria is serviceable as a lady agent. — **R** Myers. (PG-13: some intense action violence, a scene of sensuality.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. **B-**

"STICK IT": A retread of "Bring It On," with gymnastics in place of cheerleading. Missy Peregrym, with a mix of beauty and tomboyish strength, brings a nice presence to this otherwise stereotypical offering. — **C** Lemire. (PG-13: sexual jokes, strong language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. **C**

"THE SYRIAN BRIDE": This is set in a Golan Heights settlement that is home to many Druse, Arabic speakers with allegiance to Syria and a religion related to Islam, but who retain their own customs and culture. To live in that area and marry a Syrian is a cumbersome and fraught endeavor. The basic thesis: Nothing is easy in a part of the world where geopolitical issues play out in ordinary people's lives. — **K** Turan. (Not rated; in Arabic, Hebrew, Russian and French, with subtitles.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. **B+**

"TAKE MY EYES": Imagine a European version of "Sleeping With the Enemy," the heavy-breathing domestic violence melodrama from early in Julia Roberts' career. The characters here are more average, and the abuse more realistic. The heroine isn't so much an avenging angel as a sad, increasingly resolute victor over her circumstances. — **T** Burr. (Not rated: domestic violence, nudity, sexual situations, lan-

guage; in Spanish with subtitles.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. **B-**

"THANK YOU FOR SMOKING": Persuasive Big Tobacco spinmeister Nick (Aaron Eckhart) is the amoral center of this clever, rambunctious satire that skewers everything from D.C. to Hollywood. — **R** Myers. (R: language, some sexual content.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. **B+**

"TSOTSI": This Academy Award-winning South African film is an involving character study. The title character is a brutal teenage criminal whose life is redirected after he steals a car and discovers a 3-month-old baby in the back seat. — **B** Strauss. (R: violence, children in jeopardy, language, substance abuse; in Tsotsi-Tsati with subtitles.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. **B**

"UNITED 93": Director Paul Greengrass ("The Bourne Supremacy") immerses us in an insider's view of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. With a relatively low budget and no big stars, it chronicles with documentary precision how that day unfolded. — **R** Myers. (R: language, some intense sequences of terror and violence.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. **A**

"V FOR VENDETTA": A complex futuristic thriller by the creators of "The Matrix" movies. Based on a graphic novel about a masked Renaissance-type man who enlists the help of a young woman (Natalie Portman) to fight a totalitarian government. — **R** Myers. (R: strong violence, some language.) 2 hours, 13 minutes. **B+**

OPENING TODAY

"THE DA VINCI CODE" (PG-13) Director Ron Howard translates Dan Brown's wildly successful religious-themed thriller to the screen. Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou star.

"DOWN IN THE VALLEY" (R) The complex relationship between a cowboy (Edward Norton) and a restless teen (Evan Rachel Wood) wreaks havoc for all involved.

"MRS. PALFREY AT THE CLAREMONT" (NR) A lonely elderly woman (Joan Plowright) develops a close friendship with a young writer she asks to pose as her grandson.

"OVER THE HEDGE" (PG) Backyard critters investigate claims that the grass is always greener over that hedge. Bruce Willis, Steve Carell and William Shatner lend their voices to this animated tale.

"SEE NO EVIL" (R) Troubled teens do their time in a creepy hotel where a serial killer hangs out.

"THE SISTERS" (R) Maria Bello plays one of a trio of sisters dealing with dysfunctional

relationships in this updated version of an Anton Chekhov play.

"SOMERSAULT" (NR) A sexually promiscuous 16-year-old's world begins to fall apart when she develops a relationship with the son of a wealthy farmer.

Coming soon

"X-MEN: THE LAST STAND" (PG-13)

In this climax of the "X-Men" trilogy, a cure for mutantcy threatens to alter history. With Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Anna Paquin, et al. (May 26)

"A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION" (PG-13) Robert Altman teams with writer Garrison Keillor for this film version of Keillor's beloved radio show. With Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin and Lindsay Lohan. (June 9)

"SUPERMAN" (PG-13) After a long hiatus, the Man of Steel returns to the big screen. Directed by Bryan Singer, with Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth and newcomer Brandon Routh. (June 30)

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday May 19

Alameda County

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-464-5980
●The Lost City (R) 1:30, 4:45, 8
●Water (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:30

AMC Bay Street 16

5614 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-457-4262
●Akeelah and the Bee (PG) 10:30, 1:20, 4:15, 7, 9:40, 12:20
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 10, 10:40, 11, 11:50, 12:30, 1:15, 2, 2:30, 3:05, 4, 4:40, 5:25, 6:10, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9, 9:35, 10:10, 10:45, 11:50, 12:25
●Goat! The Dream Begins (PG) 10:50, 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10
●Hoot (PG) 10:05, 12:15, 2:40, 5
●Inside Man (R) 12:10, 3:15, 6:20, 9:20, 12:10
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 10:15, 11, 11:40, 1, 1:45, 2:35, 3:50, 4:30, 5:15, 6:50, 7:50, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:40, 12:30
●Over the Hedge (PG) 10:10, 11:10, 12, 12:20, 1:35, 2:25, 2:50, 4:10, 4:50, 5:35, 6:30, 7:40, 8:10, 9:10, 9:50, 10:35, 11:30, 12
●RV (PG) 10:20, 12:40, 2:55, 5:40, 8, 10:20
●The Sentinel (PG-13) 7:20, 9:45, 12:15

California Theatre

2113 Kiltredge St., Berkeley 510-464-5980
●Art School Confidential (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30
●Thank You for Smoking (R) 2:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
●Tsotsi (R) 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:20

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
●Forces of Nature (Not Rated) 8
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 7
●Solarmax (Not Rated) 6

Elmwood 3

2966 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530
●An American Haunting (PG-13) 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
●The Notorious Bettie Page (R) 5, 7
●Syriana (R) 9
●White Rainbow (Not Rated) 4:45, 6:45

Renaissance Grand Lake Theatre

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 11:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:45
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 1, 4, 7:15, 9:45
●Over the Hedge (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45

7, 9

●Poseidon (PG-13) 12, 2:15, 5, 7:30, 9:40

Oaks Theatre

1874 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836
●Over the Hedge (PG) 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9
●Poseidon (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:20

Parkway Speakeasy Theatre

1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400
●Inside Man (R) 9:15
●The Notorious Bettie Page (R) 6:30
●Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 9:45
●V for Vendetta (R) 7

Piedmont Theatre

4188 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-464-5980
●Art School Confidential (R) 2, 4:15, 7, 9:20
●Friends With Money (R) 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:40
●Thank You for Smoking (R) 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30

Regal Jack London

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
●Akeelah and the Bee (PG) 11:30, 2, 7:20
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 11:10, 12, 1, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:30, 7, 8, 9, 10:10
●Goat! The Dream Begins (PG) 4:40, 9:45
●Just My Luck (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 2, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
●Over the Hedge (PG) 11:20, 12:10, 1:45, 2:30, 4:10, 5, 7:10, 7:50, 9:20, 10
●Poseidon (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-464-5980
●Akeelah and the Bee (PG) 4:25, 6:50
●Brick (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55
●The Celestine Prophecy (PG) 1:30, 3:55, 6:40, 9:10
●Down in the Valley (R) 1:55, 4:35, 7:05, 9:45
●Drawing Restraint 9 (Not Rated) 1:40, 5, 8:10
●Friends With Money (R) 2:30, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30
●Goat! The Dream Begins (PG) 1:35, 4:10, 6:45
●Inside Man (R) 2:10, 4:50, 8
●Kinky Boots (PG-13) 9:15
●Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont (Not Rated) 2, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
●The Sisters (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
●United 93 (R) 1:50, 9:35

United Artists Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-486-1852
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 10:30, 11:30, 12:15, 2, 2:45, 3:30, 5:15, 6, 6:45

8:30, 9:15, 10

●Just My Luck (PG-13) 10:45, 1:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 5, 7:50, 10:30
●The Promise (PG-13) 1:30, 7
●See No Evil (R) 11:40, 1:40, 3:50, 5:50, 8:10, 10:20
●V for Vendetta (R) 10:40, 4, 10:10

United Artists Emery Bay Stadium 10

6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0107
●Art School Confidential (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
●Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 12:20, 2:30, 4:40
●Just My Luck (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7, 9:25
●Poseidon (PG-13) 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 3, 4:45, 5:30, 6:30, 7:15, 8, 9:45, 10:30
●See No Evil (R) 1:30, 3:45, 5:45, 7:50, 10:05
●Silent Hill (R) 1:45, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30
●Stick It (PG-13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55
●Thank You for Smoking (R) 7:10, 9:40
●United 93 (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
●V for Vendetta (R) 3:30, 9:30

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 12:30, 4, 7:30
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 1, 4:15, 7, 9:45
●Poseidon (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30

Rheem All Stadium 4

350 Park St., Moraga 925-888-3411
●Hoot (PG) 5:05, 7:35, 9:45
●Over the Hedge (PG) 5:15, 7:45, 10
●RV (PG) 5:05, 7:35, 9:45
●Thank You for Smoking (R) 5, 7:40, 9:50

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop
3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
●Akeelah and the Bee (PG) 11:25, 2, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 11, 11:40, 12:30, 1:05, 1:40, 2:15, 3, 3:50, 4:25, 5, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 7:45, 8:20, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30
●Goat! The Dream Begins (PG) 11:35, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05
●Just My Luck (PG-13) 11:50, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30

●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 9, 10:25
●Over the Hedge (PG) 10, 10:50, 11:30, 12:10, 1, 1:35, 2:20, 3:10, 3:45, 4:30, 5:20, 5:55, 6:40, 7:30, 8:10, 9:40, 10:20
●Poseidon (PG-13) 11:30, 12:35, 1:55, 2:55, 4:20, 5:25, 6:45, 7:50, 9:10, 10:15
●RV (PG) 12:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
●Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 11:35
●See No Evil (R) 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6, 8:05, 10:10

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 11:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10, 10, 10:45
●Goat! The Dream Begins (PG) 11:35, 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20
●Inside Man (R) 11:10, 2, 5:05, 8:10, 11
●Just My Luck (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:50
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 11:25, 1:25, 2:25, 4:25, 5:25, 7:25, 8:25, 10:25, 11:15
●Over the Hedge (PG) 11, 12, 1:15, 2:15, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 7:05, 8, 9:15, 10:15
●Poseidon (PG-13) 11:45, 12:45, 2:05, 3:05, 4:35, 5:35, 7:05, 8:05, 9:30, 10:30
●See No Evil (R) 11:15, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:10
●Stick It (PG-13) 11:05, 4:15, 9:45
●United 93 (R) 1:40, 7

Kabuki Cinema

1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-922-4262
●Akeelah and the Bee (PG) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:55
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 12, 12:30, 3:15, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 10, 10:30
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 1:15, 4, 7, 9:50
●Over the Hedge (PG) 11, 1, 3, 5, 7:10, 9:15
●Poseidon (PG-13) 11:45, 2, 4:30, 7:25, 9:45
●RV (PG) 11:45, 2, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40
●See No Evil (R) 12:45, 2:45, 5:20, 7:30, 9:35

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-267-4893
●Down in the Valley (R) 11:30, 2, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

Castro Theatre

429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120
Call theatre for movies and times

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 415-267-4893
●The Lost City (R) 1:30, 5, 8:15

Embarcadero Center Cinemas

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-267-4893
●Art School Confidential (R) 12, 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
●Brick (R) 1, 4:20, 7:20, 10
●Friends With Money (R) 12:20, 2:45, 5, 7, 10, 9:30
●Thank You for Smoking (R) 12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50
●Water (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:40

Lumiere Theatre

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-777-3456
●The Notorious Bettie Page (R) 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45
●Sommersault (Not Rated) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:25

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-267-4893
●Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont (Not Rated) 1:45, 4:15, 7, 9:30
●The Sisters (R) 1:30, 4, 6:45, 9:20
●The Syrian Bride (Not Rated) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50
●Take My Eyes (Not Rated) 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40

The Red Vic Theatre

1727 Haight St., San Francisco 415-863-3994
●The New World (PG-13) 8

The Roxie Theatre

3117 18th St., San Francisco 415-863-1067
●The Slanted Screen (Not Rated) 8

AMC Loews Metreon 15

101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6201
●An American Haunting (PG-13) 7:40, 10:20, 12:40
●The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:40, 2:35, 3:20, 4:10, 5:20, 6:20, 7, 7:45, 9, 10, 10:40, 11:15, 12:30
●Deep Sea 3D (G) 10:30, 12
●Goat! The Dream Begins (PG) 10:40, 1:35, 4:30
●Just My Luck (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15
●Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 11:30, 12:25, 1:20, 2:30, 3:30, 4:25, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:50, 11:40, 12:35
●Over the Hedge (PG) 11, 11, 12:10, 1:15, 1:15, 2:40, 3:45, 4:45, 5:15, 6:25, 6:25, 7:50, 8:50, 9:50, 10:25, 11:10, 11:10, 12:45
●Poseidon (PG-13) 11:35, 12:35, 12:35, 2:25, 3:25, 5:10, 6:10, 8:10, 9:10, 11
●Poseidon: The Imax Experience (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40, 12:10
●Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 12
●See No Evil (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50, 12:20
●Stick It (PG-13) 4:05, 10:55
●United 93 (R) 12

Calendar

CLASSICAL MUSIC

■ **EAST BAY CHURCH** — Jacqueline Hairston, May 19, 7:30 p.m. A piano concert featuring arrangements and transcriptions of hymn-tunes and Spirituals of the African-American Diaspora incorporated with music of European masters. \$20 donation. 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

■ **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY** — Chanticleer, May 21, 7 p.m. The program, titled "La Guerre: Triumph and Tragedy of War (Victorial)," will feature works of Tomas Victoria, Francisco Guerrero, Clement Janquin and Giovanni Trabaci. \$37-\$42. Crowden Music Center, May 25, 7 p.m. John Adams conducting. The program will feature works of Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Mozart and others. Free. 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

■ **OAKLAND EAST BAY SYMPHONY** — May 19, 8 p.m. Music Director Michael Morgan conducting. Guests: Tuck and Patti. A performance by Oakland East Bay Symphony, Oakland Symphony Chorus, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Lucy Kinchen Chorale and the Mt. Eden High School Choir. The program, titled "Let Us Break Bread Together," will include works of Mozart and Laurence Rosenthal as well as world premieres by Frank La Rocca and Ellen Hoffman. \$15 to \$60. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 625-8497, (415) 421-8497, www.oebss.org.

■ **OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, ASIAN BRANCH** — "Cantonese Opera Vignette," May 27, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Local artists perform in partial costume. The program features live music by Music Orient. Sung in Chinese with English captions. Free. Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 388 Ninth St., Suite 190, Oakland. (510) 328-3400, www.oaklandlibrary.org.

■ **ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** — Flauti Diversi, May 27, 8 p.m. The program titled "Baroque Pearls" will feature works of Bach, Couperin, Geminiani Mancini and Telemann. \$15-\$18. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.

■ **ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** — "Ali Akbar College of Music Benefit Concert," May 26, 7 p.m. The program features performances by Ali Akbar Khan, Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri and Sri Alam Khan. \$25-\$35.

"Chamber Music Sundae," May 28, 3:15 p.m. "Chamber Music Sundae" features some of the talented musicians of the San Francisco Symphony performing in small groups. This program will include works of Rostropovich, Mozart and Schostakovich. \$9-\$21. www.chambermusicsundae.org. 2727 College

Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-6830, www.stjohns.presbychurch.net.

■ **ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** — The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra with Volti, May 21, 4 p.m. Benjamin Simon conducting. The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and Volti join forces to co-present "Our Voices Rise in Song Together." The program will feature works by Benjamin Britten and Andrew Imbrie as well as the world premiere of "Open the Book of What Happened," by Mark Wingo. \$8-\$20. (415) 771-3352. 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (415) 262-0272.

■ **TRINITY CHAMBER CONCERTS** — Chamber Mix, May 20, 8 p.m. The program will feature works by Hilary Tann, Katherine Hoover, Joan Tower, John Bilotto, Jim McManus and Marth Stoddard. \$12 general; \$8 seniors, disabled persons and students. Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. (510) 549-3864, www.trinitychamberconcerts.com.

DANCE

■ **JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS** — Culture Shock Oakland, May 19 through May 20. Some of the Bay area's hottest dancers take the stage for their third workshop showcase titled "The Shop Three: Bringing Back the Boogie!" Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 p.m. \$12-\$20. www.shockfamily.org. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-8542, www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **MALONGA CASQUELORD CENTER** — "Celebrating 25 Years of Dance in America," May 20, 8 p.m. The dance festival brings together Axis Dance Company, Dancing Wheels and Full Radius Dance. These three world-class companies create contemporary dance by performers with and without disabilities. The program includes the world premiere of a new work for Dancing Wheels, by Rebecca Darling, and "Both Sides Now," a premiere work by Douglas Scott. \$10-\$20. (925) 798-1300, www.axisdance.com. 1428 Alice St., Oakland.

■ **SHATTUCK DOWN LOW** — "Live Salsa," Ongoing. An evening of dancing to the music of a live salsa band. The night opens with beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate lessons at 8:45 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-1159, www.shattuckdownlow.com.

■ **STARRY PLOUGH PUB** — "Ceili and Dance," Ongoing. Traditional Irish music and dance. The evening begins with dance lesson at 7 p.m. followed by music at 9 p.m. Mondays, 7 p.m. Free. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082, www.starryploughpub.com.

STAGE

■ **ALTARENA PLAYHOUSE** — "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," by Clark Gesner, May 19 through June 11. This musical classic, based on Charles M. Schulz's timeless comic-strip "Peanuts," brings to life the youthful and playful world of Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Sally, Schroeder and Snoopy. Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$15-\$18. 1409 High St., Alameda. (510) 523-1553, www.altarena.org.

■ **BERKELEY ART CENTER** — "Richard III," through May 20. Shakespeare's classic tale of a Richard's scandalous pursuit of the crown. A Subterranean Shakespeare presentation. Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m. \$12-\$17. Free. Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Live Oak Park, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. (510) 844-6893, www.berkeleyartcenter.org.

■ **BERKELEY CITY CLUB** — "Walking the Dead," through Oct. 29. Theatre Q presents Keith Curran's work about the tragic death of a transgendered person. Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$18-\$20. (510) 326-8197, www.theatreq.org. 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley.

■ **BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE** — "The Glass Menagerie," by Tennessee Williams, through June 18. Starring Emmy, Tony, Oscar and Grammy winner Rita Moreno as Amanda, William's autobiographical play is a tale of endurance and forgiveness in which a young man is torn between obligation to his family and the need to lead a life of his own. Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Thursday and Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. NO PERFORMANCES MAY 17. \$22.50-\$59.

Moliere's "The Miser," through June 25. David Ball's adaptation of Moliere's savagely funny comedy about a love affair between a man and his money. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sunday 2 and 7 p.m.; May 20, May 25, June 3, June 8, June 15, June 17, June 22 and June 24, 2 p.m. \$22.50-\$59.

Rita Moreno, May 22, 7 p.m. The legendary performer discusses her long and illustrious career as part of Berkeley Rep's "Page to Stage" conversation series. Free. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 647-2949, (888) 4BR-Tix, www.berkeleyrep.org.

■ **CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE** — "The Marx Brother's Animal Crackers," by Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby, through May 20. The classic musical, based on a book by George Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind, is loaded with comedic one-liners and hilarious physical comedy on the first Saturday of every month. \$8. Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Ave., Pinole. (510) 524-9132, www.cccot.org.

■ **EAST BAY IMPROV** — "Tired of the Same Old Song and Dance?" Ongoing. 8 p.m. East Bay Improv actors perform spontaneous, impulsive and hilarious comedy on the first Saturday of every month. \$8. Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Ave., Pinole. (510) 964-0571, www.eastbayimprov.com.

■ **IMPACT THEATRE** — "Money and Run Episode 4: Straight, No Chaser," by

Wayne Rawley, through May 27. A humorous story following Money, a criminal with a heart of gold, her rugged outlaw boyfriend and their corrupt adventures in Contra Costa County. Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m. \$10-\$15. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. (510) 464-4468, www.im-pacttheatre.com.

■ **JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS** — "It's Not a Piece of Cake," May 20 and 21. Written by the fifth grade class of Berkwood Hedge School. As the world's food supply begins to disappear, citizens must come together to resolve their differences and solve the mystery of the vanishing munchies. Saturday, 2 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m. \$6. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-8542, www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **LIVE OAK THEATRE** — "An Evening of Playback Theatre," May 20, 8 p.m. Personal stories shared by audience members will be instantly transformed into theatre pieces. Presented by the Living Arts Playback Theatre Ensemble. \$12-\$18. 1300 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

■ **OLD OAKLAND THEATRE** — "World Music," by Steve Waters, through May 21. TheatreFirst presents the United States premiere of "World Music." When Geoff Fallon, a popular radical politician, is unable to embrace a complex situation, his dark and deadly interior surface in his professional and personal life. Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. \$9-\$22. 461 Ninth St. at Broadway, Oakland.

■ **SHOTGUN PLAYERS** — Shakespeare's "King Lear," through June 11. A look at a dysfunctional royal family and the once-powerful king's descent into madness. Thursday-Sunday, 8 p.m. \$15-\$30. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-6500, www.shotgunplayers.org.

POPULAR MUSIC

■ **924 GILMAN ST.** — All ages welcome.

Battalion of Saints, Deadfall, Good Neighbor Policy, Parasites Go, The Runns, May 19. \$6.

Corrupted Youth, Civilian Outbreak, The Deadly Rhythm, May 20.

"Punk Rock," May 26. Featuring Abi Yo Yo's, Rock N' Roll Adventure Kids and Trainwreck Riders.

Funeral Shock, Acts of Sedition, Brain Handle, Rad Times, Young Lions, May 27. \$6.

\$5 unless otherwise noted. Shows start Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. (510) 525-9926, www.924gilman.org.

■ **ALBATROSS PUB** —

Whiskey Brothers, Ongoing. Old-time and bluegrass. First and third Wednesdays of every month. Free.

George Cotisilros Jazz Trio, May 20, 9:30 p.m. \$3.

Shows begin Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Satur-

day, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-2473, www.albatrosspub.com.

■ **ASHKENAZ** —

Don Neely's Royal Society Five, May 19, 8:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.: Dance lesson. \$16.

Tom Rigney and Flambeau, May 20, 9 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajun dance lesson. \$11-\$13.

Asheba, May 21, 3 p.m. The Trinidad-born reggae veteran brings children and families into his joyful world of Caribbean music. \$4-\$6.

Swamp Coolers, May 23, 8:30 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajun dance lesson. \$9.

Raqui and the Cavernmen, May 25, 9 p.m. 7:30 p.m.: Drum workshop. \$10-\$20.

Soul Majestic, May 26, 9:30 p.m. A Dennis Brown tribute. \$11-\$13.

The Bandworks Alistars, May 27, 7 p.m. A performance by five bands, featuring Bandworks School of rock teachers and special guests. \$15.

"Kid Glove Entertainment 12 Year Anniversary Party," May 28, 5:30 p.m. Featuring A Class Act, Duct Tape Mafia, The Icky Girlfriends and The Gnomes. \$8.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054, www.ashkenaz.com.

■ **BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE** — "Wavy Gravy's 70th Birthday!" May 20, 7 p.m. Featuring Bob Weir and Rat-dog, Mickey Hart and Friends, Steve Earle, Gillian Welch, David Lindley, Linda Tillery and Nina Gerber, John Trudell, Wavy Gravy and special guests. 1930 Alston Way, Berkeley.

■ **DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT** —

Terry Rodriguez Trio, May 19.

Howard Alden Quartet, May 21.

Rhonda Benin Quartet, May 27.

Free unless otherwise noted. Tuesday through Thursday, 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 649-3810, www.downtownrestaurant.com.

■ **FREIGHT AND SALVAGE** —

Jody Strecher and Kate Brislin, May 20. \$18.50-\$19.50.

Kenny White, May 21. \$17.50-\$18.50.

The Weepies, Carlos Olmeda, May 23. \$17.50-\$18.50.

Hanneke Cassel, May 24. \$17.50-\$18.50.

Bryan Bowers, May 25. \$17.50-\$18.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1761, www.freightandsalvage.org.

■ **LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER** —

"Dos Voces," May 19, 8 p.m. Chilean singer Jacqueline Ravello of Holland joins Bay Area favorite Rafael Manriquez for an evening of songs. \$10-\$12.

The Kaveran Experience Quartet, May 24, 7 p.m. \$10.

Bolokada Conde and Lem Pantoja Malinke, May 26, 8:30 p.m. \$10-\$12.

"Los Rakas," May 27, 9 p.m. An evening of hip hop, reggae and soul. Life. \$7-\$10.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-2568, www.lapena.org.

■ **MAMA BUZZ CAFE** —

The Lonely Hearts, Layla Noel, Danbury, Aubrey Debauchery and 6-9 p.m. \$3-\$5.

The Sarcastic Dharma Society, Mason, Shelby Sifers, May 28, 10 p.m. \$3-\$5.

Free. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m.-9 p.m. 23 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. (510) 2452.

■ **OAKLAND ARENA** — Rock on, K-Ci and JoJo, May 20. \$39.50-\$85.50. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400, (415) 421-8497, www.oaklandarena.com.

■ **PARAMOUNT THEATRE** — "Live Salsa," Ongoing. An evening of dancing to the music of a live salsa band. The night opens with beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate lessons at 8:45 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$5-\$10.

Santero, We a Dem, May 18. \$10-\$15. Equipto, Pep Love, Co-Dance, May 10 p.m. \$5.

For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-1159, www.shattuckdownlow.com.

■ **STARRY PLOUGH PUB** — "The Starry Irish Music Session," Ongoing. Black, Ongoing. Sundays, 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082, www.starryploughpub.com.

■ **YOSHI'S** —

Keiko Matsui, through May 21. \$10-\$15.

Opie Bellas, May 22. \$6-\$10.

Mel Martin Quartet, S. Kwaku Dziedzi, May 23. A tribute to Coltrane. \$10-\$16.

William Parker Quartet, May 24. \$10-\$16.

Robben Ford Band, May 25. \$10-\$16.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. (510) 525-9926, www.yoshis.com.

See EVENTS, Page C4

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Events

FROM PAGE C4

ARTS GALLERY —

ACCI ARTISTS — A retrospective of the work of ACCI artists Anne Stewart, David Pusch and Lila Brockman, who of whom takes a different approach to the creation of their work. Reception: May 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ACCI ARTISTS — through June 3. The exhibit celebrates the bond of friendship between ACCI artists Anne Stewart, David Pusch and Lila Brockman, who of whom takes a different approach to the creation of their work. Reception: May 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — The American Museum of Natural History is dedicated to discover, preserve, interpret and share the cultural and historical experiences of African Americans in California and the West. In addition, a three-day exhibit is on permanent display.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — The exhibit explores forensic entomology, a relatively new aspect of criminal investigations. Visitors will get the feel of an actual investigation and will view authentic field and lab equipment, model crime scenes, live insects, case studies and interactive displays.

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"Kapala," May 27 through Sept. 3. The hands-on exhibit features thousands of versatile building blocks that can be used to build very large, high and stable structures and models of bridges, buildings, animals or anything else your mind can conceive.

"My Home Planet Earth," May 27. This colorful and engaging exhibit focuses on environmental health and uses 25 creative, hands-on activities to help children make thoughtful decisions about air quality, water pollution and nutrition.

"CSI: Crime Scene Insects," through May 29. The exhibit explores forensic entomology, a relatively new aspect of criminal investigations. Visitors will get the feel of an actual investigation and will view authentic field and lab equipment, model crime scenes, live insects, case studies and interactive displays.

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Special tours and movie presentations. Admission is free.

"Measure of Time," through June 24. The exhibit examines the many ways in which leading American artists of the last century explored time, from static works that capture a moment in time, to video and kinetic art in which the passing of time becomes an element of the artwork itself. Wednesday and Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$8 general; \$9-\$12 general. PFA Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 842-5249, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

OUTDOORS

■ **BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS** — Ongoing. A network of trails converted from unused railway corridors and developed by the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

OHLONE GREENWAY — ongoing. A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway. Suitable for walkers, strollers and skaters. It is also wheelchair accessible. The trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Colton and Kay Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley.

SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL — ongoing. An easy 3.3-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Railroad Line. The trail-lined trail is gently sloping and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walkers and cyclists. It is also wheelchair accessible. Begins in Montclair Village behind McCaulou's Department Store on Medea Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive, Oakland. Useable year-round. Free. (415) 397-2220, www.traillink.com.

■ **BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL** — Ongoing. The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed, will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.

ONGOING EVENTS —

ALAMEDA COUNTY — "Lake Chabot Bike Rides." These rides are for strong beginners and intermediates to build skill, strength and endurance at a non hammerhead pace. No one will be dropped. Reservations required. Distance: 14 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet. Difficulty: beginner to intermediate. Pace: moderate. Meeting place: Lake Chabot Road at the main entrance to the park. Thursday, 6:15 a.m. (510) 468-3582.

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA COUNTY — "Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides." A vigorous ride through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon regional parks. Reservations required. Distance: 15 miles. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermediate. Pace: fast. Meeting place: in front of the North Berkeley BART Station. Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. (510) 849-9650.

■ **OAKLAND ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER** — "Oakland's 19th-Century San Pablo Avenue Chinatown." Ongoing. A permanent exhibit of new findings about the rediscovered Chinatown on San Pablo Avenue. The exhibit aims to inform visitors about the upcoming archaeological work planned to explore the lives of early Chinese pioneers in the 1860s. Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific Renaissance Plaza, 388 Ninth St., Suite 290, Oakland. (510) 637-0455, www.oacc.cc.

■ **OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, ASIAN BRANCH** — "Playful and Reflective: Painting with Origami," through May 31. An exhibit of Won-Ju Hulse's work, inspired by nature and dream images. "Kimekom: Japanese Doll Making," through May 31. An exhibit of Kimekom dolls, traditional wooden dolls dressed in kimonos. Free. Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 388 Ninth St., Suite 190, Oakland. (510) 238-3400, www.oaklandlibrary.org.

■ **RICHMOND ART CENTER** — "Annual Report," through June 3. An exhibit of drawings and paintings by Beth Cook. West Gallery.

Artist performance and cocktails: May 20, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

"Art Partners: Artists in Our Community," through June 3. An exhibit showcasing artwork from the Art Center's community programs. Community Gallery.

"Atypical Everyday," through June 3. An exhibit featuring humorous video installations by Mads Lynnerup. South Gallery.

Artist performance and cocktails: May 20, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

"The 41st Annual Student Art Show," through June 3. An exhibit featuring artwork made by middle and high school students from the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Main Gallery.

Free. Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. (510) 620-6772, www.therichmondartcenter.org.

■ **RICHMOND MAIN STREET INITIATIVE** — "Black Artists' Expressions of Father," through July 28. An exhibit featuring paintings, ceramics, photography, wood sculpture, charcoal, gouache and mixed media. The artists honor their fathers and explore the ideas of fatherhood. 1101 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

■ **ROYAL GROUND GALLERY** — "Slipping Glimpses," through June 25. An exhibit featuring paintings, baskets, mixed media and jewelry by East Bay Women Artists. Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 339-0348.

■ **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE** — Exploring cinema from the Bay Area and cultures around the world, the Pacific Film Archive offers daily film screenings, including rare and rediscovered prints of movie classics; new and historic works by worldamous directors; restored silent films with live musical accompaniment; retrospectives; and new and experimental works. Check Web site for a full schedule of films.

"First Impressions: Free First Thursdays," first Thursday of every month.

Free. (415) 561-2595, www.ridgetrail.org.

■ **BICYCLE TRAILS COUNCIL OF THE EAST BAY** — Ongoing. The Council sponsors trail work days, Youth Bike Adventure Rides, and Group Rides as well as Mountain Bike Basics classes which cover training and handling skills. ONGOING EVENTS —

"Weekly Wednesday Ride at Lake Chabot," ongoing. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. A 13- to 20-mile ride exploring the trails around Lake Chabot, with 1,500 to 2,000 feet of climbing. Meet at 6:15 p.m. in the parking lot across from the public safety offices at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley. Reservations requested. (510) 727-0613.

"Weekly Wednesday 'Outer' East Bay Ride," ongoing. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Ride some of the outer East Bay parks each week, such as Wild Cat Canyon, Briones, Mount Diablo, Tilden and Joaquin Miller-Redwood. Meeting place and ride location vary. Reservations required. (510) 888-9757.

Free. (510) 466-5123, www.btcab.org.

■ **CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER** — Ongoing. At Crab Cove, you can see live underwater creatures and go into the San Francisco Bay from land. You can also travel back in time to Alameda's part. The goal is to increase understanding of the environmental importance of San Francisco Bay and the ocean ecosystem. Crab Cove's Indoor Aquarium and Exhibit Lab is one of the largest indoor aquariums in the East Bay.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

"Low Tide Explorations," through May 27. Visit during low tide to meet a crab up close, examine the mud for animal homes and view shorebirds before they leave for the summer. May 6, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; May 13, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.; May 20, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; May 27, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

"Catch of the Day," through May 28, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. Learn about Bay critters and explore the cove. Sunday.

"Estuary Explorers," May 11 and May 25, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Enjoy outdoor exploration, a theme-related craft and a snack. For children ages 6-8. \$8. (510) 636-1684.

"Teens Touch the Earth," May 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Discover how you can benefit by protecting watersheds, wildlife and native plants, then take action by removing shoreline debris and invasive plants. Ages 12 to 19. Registration required. (510) 636-1684.

"Sea Squirts," May 23, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Enjoy outdoor exploration, a theme related craft and a snack. For children ages 3-5. Registration required. \$8. (510) 636-1684.

"Nature Stories and Songs," May 27, 2:30 p.m. Learn about the wonders of nature through books and music at this interactive family program.

"Campfire Programs: Nature's Night Shift," May 27, 8-9 p.m. Dress warmly and bring marshmallows for roasting after the program. Non-campers welcome.

Free unless otherwise noted; parking

fee may be charged. 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. (510) 521-6887, www.ebparks.org.

■ **DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE** — Ongoing. \$4-\$5. Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion. ESTATE GROUNDS — ongoing. Self-Guided Grounds Tours are available year around. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public for walking Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Booklets and maps of the grounds are available at the Dinkelspiel House. Free. Dunsmuir House and Gardens, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. (510) 615-5555, www.dunsmuir.org

■ **GREENBELT ALLIANCE OUTINGS** — A series of hikes, bike rides and events sponsored by Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's non-profit land conservation and urban planning organization. Call for meeting places. Reservations required for all trips. "Self-Guided Urban Outing: Berkeley," Ongoing. This interactive smart growth walking tour of central Berkeley examines some of the exciting projects that help alleviate the housing shortage in the city as well as amenities important to making a livable community. The walk, which includes the GAIA Cultural Center, Allston Oak Court, The Berkeley Bike Station, University Terrace and Strawberry Creek Park, takes between an hour and a half to two hours at a leisurely pace. Download the itinerary which gives specific directions by entering www.greenbelt.org and clicking on "get involved" and then "urban outings." Drop down and click on Berkeley. Free unless otherwise noted. (415) 255-3233, www.greenbelt.org.

■ **KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA** — Ongoing. The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees. \$5 parking; \$2 per dog except guide/service dogs. Through September: daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. (510) 223-7840, www.ebparks.org.

■ **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SHORELINE** — Ongoing. This 1,200-acre park situated near Oakland International Airport offers picnic areas with barbecues and a boat launch ramp. Swimming is not allowed. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Grove, a group of trees surrounding a grassy glade, is at the intersection of Doolittle Drive and Swan Way. The area also includes the 50-acre Arrowhead Marsh (part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) and a Roger Berry sculpture titled "Duplex Cone," which traces the summer and winter solstice paths of the sun through the sky. Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. unless otherwise posted. Doolittle Drive and Swan Way, Oakland. (510) 562-PARK, Picnic reservations: (510) 636-1684, www.ebparks.org.

■ **MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL SHORELINE** — Ongoing. A 295-acre shoreline picnic area with a secluded cove and

swimming beach, and a hilltop offering panoramic views of the North Bay Area. Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., unless otherwise posted. 900 Dornan Dr., Richmond. (510) 562-PARK, Picnic Reservations: (510) 636-1684, www.ebparks.org.

■ **OAKLAND ZOO** — Ongoing. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in its special exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna," with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahai Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant), with giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing four million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siamang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbon's native tropical rain forest habitat. Also see the Malaysian Fruit Bats from the Lubez Bat Conservancy in Florida that are now roosting in trees at the zoo. In addition there are special exhibits and events monthly.

ONGOING EXHIBITS —

"Valley Children's Zoo," ongoing. The three-acre attraction offers a completely interactive experience for both children and adults. The exhibits include lemurs, giant fruit bats, otters, reptiles, insects and more. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Endangered Species," ongoing. An exhibit of photographs about the most endangered animals on the Earth and what can be done to save them. At the Education Center. Open daily during zoo hours. ONGOING EVENTS —

"Valley Children's Zoo," ongoing. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The three-acre attraction will offer a completely interactive experience for both children and adults. The exhibits include lemurs, giant fruit bats, otters, reptiles, insects and more. Free with regular Zoo admission.

Events

FROM PAGE C5

Bay. There are trails through meadows and woods, and along the bluffs and beaches of San Pablo Bay. Visitors can hike, ride bikes or take the park's shuttle bus to reach the 1,250-foot fishing pier at Point Pinole. \$5 per vehicle; \$4 per trailer; \$2 per dog (guide/service dogs free). Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., unless otherwise posted. Giant Highway, Richmond. (510) 562-PARK. www.ebparks.org.

■ **REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK** — Ongoing. The park's 1,836 acres contain a redwood forest with peaceful groves, as well as other evergreens, chaparral and grasslands. There are picnic sites and grassy play areas, with access for disabled persons and a play structure for children. Redwood Creek, which runs through the park, contains the world-famous rainbow trout. \$5 per vehicle; \$4 per trailer; \$2 per dog. Free for guide/service dogs. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7867 Redwood Road, Oakland. (510) 562-PARK. www.ebparks.org.

■ **REI BERKELEY** — A series of lectures on hikes and outdoor equipment. "Hands-on Bicycle Clinic," May 21, 10 a.m. Learn how to fix a flat tire. Bring bike and tools.

"Hiking the America Discovery Trail," May 23. Join Ken and Marcia Powers for slides and stories of their adventures on the segment of the ADT from Denver, Colorado to Point Reyes, California.

Events are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 527-4140.

■ **ROBERT SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE** — Ongoing. East Bay residents have several volcanoes in their backyard. This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the Oakland Hills. Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 562-PARK. www.ebparks.org.

■ **ROBERTS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA** — Ongoing. Within the park's 82 acres are a heated outdoor pool, bathroom, playing fields, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here. \$5 per vehicle; \$2 per dog except guide and service dogs. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Skyline Boulevard, a half-mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. (510) 562-PARK. www.ebparks.org.

■ **TILDEN REGIONAL PARK** — This park is large and contains hiking trails, a golf course, a miniature scaled train ride, The Brazilian Building and picnic areas.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANICAL GARDEN — Ongoing. Guided docent tours of the gardens, Saturday and Sunday through 2005, 2 p.m. Free. (510) 845-4116, www.nativplants.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

"Bay Area Storytelling Festival," May 20 through May 21, 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Five storytellers from across the nation will regale you with stories. For ages 9 and older. At Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area. \$7-\$55.

"Kids Garden Club," May 20, 2-4 p.m. Plant, harvest, build, make crafts, cook and get dirty. For children ages 7 to 12. Registration required. (510) 636-1684.

"Bug Out," May 21, 1:30-3 p.m. Search the Nature Area for creepy critters and make your own to take home. For children ages 6 to 12. \$3.

"Return of Over-the-Hills-Gang," May 23, 10 a.m.-noon. Dave Zuckermann leads hikes 55 and older on a hike with sweeping views above Carquinez Strait.

"Brooks Island Voyage," May 27, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Paddle the rising tide across the Richmond Harbor Channel to Brooks Island and explore the island's natural and cultural history. Ages 14 and older. \$22. (510) 636-1684.

"Natural Science Illustration Field Study," May 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn basic visual fundamentals of drawing, sharpen your observation skills and tune into ecological relationships of the region's inhabitants. Ages 16 and older. \$34. (510) 636-1684.

"Nature Drawing for Youth," May 28, 2:30-4 p.m. Learn field drawing skills through fun-filled exercises while learning about the plants and animals of the area. Ages 8-15. \$17. (510) 636-1684.

Free unless otherwise noted. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. (510) 525-2233, www.ebparks.org.

■ **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDEN** — Ongoing. The garden's 34 acres include displays of thousands of exotic and native plants.

ONGOING EVENTS —

Docent Tours, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour.

Waterwise Gardening Tour, third Thursday and the following Saturday and Sunday of every month, 1:30 p.m. Free.

Sick Plant Clinic, first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to noon. A plant pathologist and his team of experts will diagnose what ails your plant. Free.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

"Urban Bee Gardening," May 21, 10 a.m.-noon. Learn how to encourage bees and other natural pollinators to visit your garden through creating effective and attractive native bee gardens. Registration required. Free.

\$5 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children ages 3 to 18; free on the first Thursday of every month. Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed the first Tuesday of every month for maintenance. UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755, <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu>.

MUSEUMS

■ AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND — Ongoing. The Oakland Public Library's museum is designed to discover, preserve, interpret and share the cultural and historical experiences of African Americans in California and the West. In addition, a three-panel mural is on permanent display. Free. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 637-0200, www.oaklandlibrary.org.

■ **ALAMEDA MUSEUM** — Ongoing. The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City. Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. (510) 521-1233, www.alamedamuseum.org.

■ **BADE MUSEUM AT THE PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION** — Ongoing. The museum's collections include the Tell en-Nasbeh Collection, consisting of artifacts excavated from Tell en-Nasbeh in Palestine in 1926 and 1935 by William Badt, and the Howell Bible Collection, featuring approximately 300 rare books (primarily Bibles) dating from the 15th through the 18th centuries. Free. Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holbrook Hall, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0528, <http://bade.psr.edu/bade>.

■ **EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS** — Ongoing. A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. (510) 763-0141.

■ **HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM** — Ongoing. A museum especially for children ages 7 and under. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

ONGOING EXHIBITS —

"Waterworks." A water play gallery with rivers, a pumping station and a water table, designed to teach about water.

"Little Town Grocery and Cafe." Designed to create the ambience of shopping in a grocery store and eating in a restaurant.

"Infant-Toddler Garden." A picket fence gated indoor area, which includes a carrot patch with wooden carrots to be harvested, a pretend pond and a butterfly mobile to introduce youngsters to the concept of food, gardening and agriculture.

"Dramatic Arts Stage." Settings, backdrops and costumes coincide with seasonal events and holidays. Children can exercise their dramatic flair here.

"Wiggle Wall." The floor-to-ceiling "underground" tunnels give children a worm's eye view of the world. The tunnels are lined with net covered openings and giant optic lenses.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

"Childproofing your Home," May 19, 11 a.m. Rachel Murray from Safe and Sound Kids will provide professional advice on how to childproof your home. Free with admission.

\$5-\$6 Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; CLOSED SUNDAY. MONDAY, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. (510) 647-1111, www.habitot.org.

■ **HALL OF HEALTH** — Ongoing. A community health-education museum and science center promoting wellness and individual responsibility for health. There are hands-on exhibits that teach about the workings of the human body, the value of a healthy diet and exercise, and the destructive effects of smoking and drug abuse. "Kids on the Block" puppet shows, which use puppets from diverse cultures to teach about and promote acceptance of conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, leukemia, blindness, arthritis and spina bifida, are available by request for community events and groups visiting the Hall on Saturdays.

ONGOING EXHIBITS —

"This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an Exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer. Suggested \$3 donation; free for children under age 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-1564, www.hallofhealth.org.

■ **JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM** — Ongoing. The museum's permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historical artists.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS — Ongoing.

"Larry Abramson: Searching for the Ideal City," through July 16. The third in series of exhibits titled "REVISIONS" in which artists, curators and scholars are invited to create experimental installations inspired by the museum's permanent collections.

"Modernism in Israel: Works on Paper," through July 9. The exhibit includes prints, watercolors, ink drawings, and illustrated books dating from the 1940s and 1950s.

\$6 general; \$4 students and seniors; free for children under age 12. Sunday

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TRAVELING IN CIRCLES By PATRICK BEERY / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

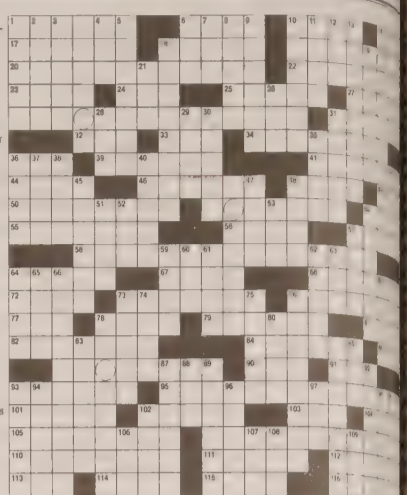
ACROSS

- 1 White-collar position
6 Big guy
10 "Did you ...?"
14 Moo goo gai pan
17 Sonata movements
18 Not the most reliable set of wheels
20 Little-known
22 It surrounds the Isle of Man
23 "New Look" pioneer
24 Eastern way
25 Half-German/half-Indian film hero
27 Cymbal in a drum kit
31 3-D figures
32 "I hope to see London once I die;" Henry IV, Part 2
33 Cognizance
34 Carmel's cronies
36 Comment made after jumping in a pool, maybe
39 Sale strongly
41 Faultfinders
44 Thrust sound
46 Eye sockets
48 Certain ID check

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DOWN

- 1 Hunter slain by Artemia
102 Gillette brand
103 "What ... care?"
104 Five or ten, say
105 Unsuccessful, as a mission
110 Bear in mind
111 Appropriate
112 Blubberless marine mammals
113 Leftmost digital watch no.
114 Recycle bin fillers
115 Tap sites
116 Boon to Scottish tourism
1 Fuddy-duddy
2 1998 De Niro thriller
3 Under a false name, briefly
4 G
5 Sleeping sickness carriers
6 Sports
7 Cereal grass
8 Schindler's business partner in "Schindler's List"
9 Sonatas, e.g.
10 Like some mushrooms
11 Florida's Beach
12 "Hostel" director
13 1950 film that retells the same events four times
15 Mountain nymph
16 "Beauty is truth, truth beauty" writer
18 Potbenders
19 Passed (away)
21 "What nonsense!"
26 Intersected
28 Grp. involved in "the Troubles"
29 Flavor lender
30 Ludicrous
31 M.I.T.'s School of Management
35 Ending with defer or refer
36 "Goldberg Variations" composer
37 Daughter of Uranus
38 Count
40 Super-duper
42 Big
43 Appeals to
45 Out of sorts
47 The place of one's fodder?
48 Does a run
51 Snakes with vestigial limbs
52 Escort's offering
53 Lettuce type
54 Country
57 "So of ..."
59 It serves many courses: Abbr.
60 Juicer



- 61 Former Hong Kong leader Tung
62 Lacking sense
63 One of the Bobbsey Twins
64 Star followers
65 Group that includes the U.A.E.
66 Picks
69 Girder with flanges
70 It may come with a gift
73 Render unavailable
74 First of all
75 Moliere comedy, with "The"
76 Became an item
80 Brother of Ham and Japheth
83 Honored alumni, usually
85 Rest cure destination
87 Bugs that live in trees
88 Across Merkel
89 Ancient Turkish dynasty founder
92 Mini-maps
93 Whistle waker
94 Garden spot
96 Shabby treatment
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through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. (510) 849-6950, www.magnes.org.

■ **MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM** — Ongoing. The collection includes over 6,000 objects, approximately 4,000 prints and drawings, 900 textiles, 200 paintings, and 900 small ceramics and sculptures. Each season works from the museum's permanent collection are shown along with the regular season's program.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS —

"Exhibition 2006," through May 28. An exhibit featuring work of Mill's 2006 M.F.A. students.

Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2164, www.mills.edu.

■ **MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE** — Ongoing. A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient times to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Cafe, science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes. \$6 general; \$4 children ages 6 to 18. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 630 20th St., Oakland. (510) 893-6426, www.ncal-ifblackengineers.org.

■ **MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART** — Ongoing. A museum of art for and by children, with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

ART CAMPS — Hands-on activities and engaging curriculum for children of different ages, led by professional artists and staff. \$60 per day.

CLASSES — A Sunday series of classes for children ages 8 to 12, led by Mocha artists. Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

OPEN STUDIOS — Drop-in art play activities with new themes each week.

"Big Studio." Guided art projects for children age 6 and older with a Mocha artist. Tuesday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$5.

"Little Studio." A hands-on experience that lets young artists age 18 months to 5 years see, touch and manipulate a variety of media. Children can get messy.

Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5.

"Family Weekend Studios." Drop-in art activities for the whole family. All ages welcome. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. \$5 per child.

FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZAS — Special weekend workshops for the entire family.

"Sunday Workshops with Illustrators," Sundays, 1 p.m. See the artwork and meet the artists who create children's book illustrations. Free.

Free gallery admission. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 538 Ninth St., Oakland. (510) 465-8770, www.mocha.org.

■ **OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA** — Ongoing.

ONGOING EVENTS —

"Art à la Carte." Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Free with museum admission.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Free with general admission unless otherwise noted.

"The 37th Annual California Wildflower Show," May 20 through May 21. View a profusion of freshly gathered native flowers and learn about conserving the state's botanical diversity and using native species in home gardens. Included with museum admission.

"Illustration Workshop," May 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Catherine Waters leads this botanical illustration workshop. Call for reservation. (510) 238-3684.

"Family Explorations!" May 21, 1-4 p.m. Find out how earthquakes work, watch demonstrations by the Oakland Fire Department and learn emergency skill and how to get prepared. Included with museum admission.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS —

"The Latino Baseball Story: Photographs by Jose Luis Villegas," through May 28. An exhibit of 60 photographs documenting young Latinos and their dreams of becoming baseball stars in the United States.

"Edward Weston: Masterworks from the Collection," through June 11. An exhibit of more than 50 photographs by We-

ston from the museum's collection, including portraits, landscapes, nudes and still lifes.

"The Art of Seeing: Nature Revealed Through Illustration," through June 4. A visual celebration of California's biological diversity and unique environment. The juried exhibition showcases a variety of media.

"Aftershock! Voices from the 1906 Earthquake and Fire," through Aug. 13. The 4,000-square-foot exhibit, which includes more than 250 artifacts and photographs, focuses on how the earthquake impacted the lives of Bay Area residents one century ago.

"Behind the Magic: 50 Years of Disneyland," through Aug. 20. The three-part exhibition features Walt Disney's early life as a cartoonist and filmmaker, renderings and plans for the development of his amusement park, and a section on the Imagineers, the team responsible for creating and maintaining Disneyland's culture and magic.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free for children ages 5 and under, free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Special events are free with museum admission unless noted otherwise. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (510) 2200, www.museumca.org.

■ **PARDEE HOME MUSEUM** — Ongoing. The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1891, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were known for the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The museum includes the house, grounds, walled garden and barn. Reservations required. \$5 general; free for children ages 5 and under. House tours: Wednesday and Saturday, noon to 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. 672 11th St., Oakland. (510) 842-1111, www.pardeehome.org.

See EVENTS, Page C6

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PAGE C6
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MUSEUM OF HISTORY
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lighting the cultural, industrial and
agricultural history of the region.
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nior; \$1 student. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 400 Nevins
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www.pardeehome.org.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY ART MUSEUM — On-
going
ONGOING EVENTS —
"Measure of Time," through June 24.
The exhibit examines aspects of tempo-
rality and duration in American art and
film of the last century.
"Selections from the Collection,"
through June 24. The exhibit features a
range of the Museum's signature works.
"Now-Time Venezuela, Part 1: Worker-
Controlled Factories," through May 28.
An exhibit featuring newly commis-
sioned multi-screen projection by Dario
Azzellini and Oliver Ressler on the sub-
ject of Venezuela's worker-controlled
factories.
"The Flaming Sword of Truth," through
May 21. An exhibit featuring work by UC
Berkeley MFA students presented in
collaboration with UC Berkeley's De-
partment of Art Practice.
"Now-Time Venezuela, Part 2: Revolu-
tionary Television in Cuba," through July
16. The exhibit, the second part of a se-
ries recognizing the Bolivarian Revolu-
tion in Venezuela, features a selection of

work of three Bay Area photographers:
Ruth Marion-Baruch, Bill Owens and
Larry Sultan.
"The Bancroft Library at 100: A Celebra-
tion 1906-2006," through Dec. 3. The
exhibit marks the centennial of the Ban-
croft Library at the university. It shows
more than 200 objects spanning
2000 years.
"Measure of Time," through June 24.
The exhibit examines aspects of tempo-
rality and duration in American art and
film of the last century.
"Selections from the Collection,"
through June 24. The exhibit features a
range of the Museum's signature works.
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An exhibit featuring newly commis-
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partment of Art Practice.
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tionary Television in Cuba," through July
16. The exhibit, the second part of a se-
ries recognizing the Bolivarian Revolu-
tion in Venezuela, features a selection of

the work of the community television
station Caba Tve.
\$8 general; \$5 seniors, students and
youth ages 12 to 18; free children under
age 12 and UC Berkeley students; free
to all on first Thursday of the month.
Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to
5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-
0808, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.
■ UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY HEARST MUSEUM OF
ANTHROPOLOGY
ONGOING EXHIBITS —
"Native California Cultures," ongoing.
This is an exhibit of some 500 artifacts
from the museum's California collec-
tions, the largest and most compre-
hensive collections in the world devoted to
California Indian cultures. The exhibit in-
cludes a section about Ishi, the famous
Indian who lived and worked with the
museum, Yana Inbal baskets and a 17-
foot Yurok canoe carved from a single
redwood.
"Recent Acquisitions," ongoing. The
collection includes Yoruba masks and
carvings from Africa, early-20th-century
Taiwanese hand puppets, textiles from
the Americas and 19th- and 20th-cen-
tury Tibetan artifacts.
"From the Maker's Hand: Selections
from the Permanent Collection," ongo-

ing. This exhibit explores human inge-
nuity in the living and historical cultures
of China, Africa, Egypt, Peru, North
America and the Mediterranean.
\$4 general; \$3 seniors; \$1 students
ages 13 and over; free for children ages
12 and under; free to all on Thursdays.
Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, noon to 4:30 p.m.
103 Kroeber Hall, Bancroft Way and
College Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 643-
7648,
http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu.
■ UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY MUSEUM OF PALEON-
TOLOGY
ONGOING EXHIBITS —
"Tyrannosaurus Rex," ongoing. A 20-
foot-tall, 40-foot-long replica of the fear-
some dinosaur. The replica is made
from casts of bones of the most com-
plete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated.
When unearthed in Montana, the bones
were all lying in place with only a small
piece of the tailbone missing.
"Pteranodon," ongoing. A suspended
skeleton of a flying reptile with a
wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The Pteran-
odon lived at the same time as the di-
nosaurus.
"California Fossils Exhibit," ongoing. An
exhibit of some of the fossils that have
been excavated in California.

Free. During semester sessions, hours
generally are: Monday through Thurs-
day, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to
5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Sunday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Hours vary
during summer and holidays. Lobby,
1101 Valley Life Sciences Building,
4780, University of California, Berkeley
(510) 642-1821,
www.ucmp.berkeley.edu.
■ USS HORNET MUSEUM — On-
going. Come aboard the World War II air-
craft carrier that has been converted
into a floating museum. The Hornet,
launched in 1943, is 899 feet long and
27 stories high. During World War II she
was never hit by an enemy strike or
plane and holds the Navy record for
number of enemy planes shot down in
a week. In 1969 the Hornet recovered
the Apollo 11 space capsule containing
the first men to walk on the moon, and
later recovered Apollo 12. In 1991 the
Hornet was designated a National His-
toric Landmark and is now docked at
the same pier she sailed from in 1944.
Today, visitors can tour the massive
ship, view World War II-era warplanes
and experience a simulated aircraft
launch from the carrier's deck. Exhibits
are being added on an ongoing basis.
Allow two to three hours for a visit. Wear
comfortable shoes and be prepared to
climb steep stairs or ladders. Dress in
layers as the ship can be cold. Arrive no
later than 2 p.m. to sign up for the en-

gine room and other docent-led tours.
Children under age 12 are not allowed
in the Engine Room or the Combat In-
formation Center.
ONGOING EVENTS —
"Limited Access Day," ongoing. Due to
ship maintenance, tours of the navigation
bridge and the engine room are not
available Tuesdays.
"Flight Deck Fun," ongoing. A former
Landing Signal Officer will show children
how to bring in a fighter plane for a land-
ing on the deck then let them try the sig-
nals themselves. Times vary. Free with
regular museum admission.
"Protestant Divine Services," ongoing.
Hornet chaplain John Berger conducts
church services aboard The Hornet in
the Wardroom Lounge. Everyone is wel-
come and refreshments are served im-
mediately following the service. Sundays,
11 a.m.
SPECIAL EVENTS —
"Limited Access Day," Ongoing. Tues-
days, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Due to ship
maintenance, tours of the navigation
bridge and the engine room are not
available. \$5 per person.
"Protestant Divine Services," Ongoing.
Hornet chaplain John Berger conducts
church services aboard The Hornet in
the Wardroom Lounge. Everyone is wel-
come and refreshments are served im-
mediately following the service. Sun-
days, 11 a.m.

Prime Life In Our Neighborhoods



Why does balance get worse with age?

Our bodies depend on input from three different sensory systems for balance. These three are: 1) vision; 2) sensory receptors in the skin, muscles and joints; and 3) inner ear mechanisms. The brain must receive and integrate the sensory input from all three systems and formulate a motor response from the muscles in order to maintain balance. This motor response requires strong leg muscles and flexible joints. Many of these components can be affected with aging. Vision can become less acute and sensation diminished with

diabetes or circulatory problems. Medical problems or medications can affect the inner ear. Brain processes can also become slower with strokes, Alzheimer's, or other neurological conditions. Muscles can become weak and joints stiff from lack of exercise. What can you do to maintain or improve balance? Stay healthy, keep your mind active, and exercise regularly. You are never too old to start exercising. Take daily walks; find a form of exercise that you like and stick with it; join a gym and get stronger.

Physical Therapists can assess an individual's balance and determine risk of falling. Physical Therapists can successfully work with people whose balance has decreased to the point that it is starting to affect their performance of everyday activities. Remember: An ounce of prevention is worth the pound of cure. Take steps to improve or maintain your balance before that fall occurs! Any further questions? Call Kathy Hanley, P.T., Alameda Elder Services, at 521-9200 ext. 105.

East Island Senior Care

In the course of our lives, we will reach a point where we cannot completely take care of ourselves. If you are one of the 52 million Americans who have the task assigned for family members, how do you avoid being completely overwhelmed or neglecting your

responsibilities? What if you continue working and have children at home who also need care? Most people, no matter their age, prefer living in their own home, surrounded by familiar people and cherished belongings, to moving to a board and care facility or nurs-

ing home. Adult day programs may be able to help older adults continue living in their own homes for several years. Live at home, Stay well, Have fun. Adult day programs provide a welcoming community, health services, creative activities, a hot meal and transportation assistance to and from the program. These are day-time services that make it possible for frail elders to live at home, protect their health and independence, and enjoy themselves. Perhaps most importantly, these programs provide socialization and involvement for participants as well as a much needed break for caregivers, thereby strengthening and preserving family relationships. Further information is available by calling East Island Senior Residence and Day Care. (510) 865-3380 or at www.alamedasenior.com

"Senior Day Care"

"7 Days a Week"
8:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

Quality time in a friendly atmosphere.

Activities include: singalongs, table games, exercise, indoor sports, current events, walks, reminiscence therapy, guest entertainment.

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2437 Lincoln Ave. • Phone: 865-3380
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Mercy Care & Retirement Center Celebrates Sister Melanie's 25 Years of Service

Focusing on a patient's total self - inside and outside, is the goal of Sister Melanie, Director of Skilled Nursing at Mercy Retirement & Care Center. Sister Melanie, who celebrates her 25th anniversary with Mercy on June 1st, has seen her vision come true when she helped transform Mercy from an independent retirement

community into a multi-level community that delivers four levels of care to a changing senior population. Trained as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, Sister Melanie has worked with the Mercy Care Center staff to provide compassionate care to advanced aged seniors with long-term or terminal illnesses. Under

Mercy's Palliative Care program, residents with long-term illnesses are provided with the utmost in comfort. To accomplish this, Mercy developed a yearlong certified education program for CNAs, nursing aides, and staff. The program teaches: pain management, calming techniques, pain recognition through facial expressions, emotional and spiritual support techniques, and helping the terminally ill die with dignity. "I have witnessed the changing needs of the elderly over the years that I have been associated with Mercy," noted Sister Melanie. "Our program helps educate both our residents and families on how to reach the inner and outer self for those with terminal illnesses," she added.

Sister Melanie's 25th anniversary falls on the heels of National Nurses Week celebrated throughout the United States to recognize the hard work and dedication of registered nurses nationwide. Please join Mercy in celebrating National Nurses Week, May 6th through May 12th.

For more information, call Mercy Retirement & Care Center at 510-534-8540, stop by our campus at 3431 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, or visit our web site at www.mercyretirementcenter.org.

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Mercy Retirement & Care Center
Oakland • 510.534.8540
www.mercyretirementcenter.org
RCFE Lic. # 015600255 • SNF Lic. # CA020000237

Elder Care Alliance Communities
Elder Care Alliance is a consortium of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Baringham and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Home of Elder Gym

Alameda Elder Services

Kathy Hanley, Director
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Air conditioners in cars are fairly simple systems. While problems with them are usually easy to diagnose, they are not always cheap to repair. There is a big difference in repair costs depending on what's wrong.

The first thing to figure out is whether air comes out from the vents when the a/c is turned on. Warm air usually indicates a low charge, which means some or all of the refrigerant has leaked out. An air condition check and charge is usually under \$200 and is a normal maintenance service.

Refrigerant travels throughout the system, creating cold air by utilizing high and low pressures. The blower fan then blows this cold air into the cabin. During this process, condensation forms. Excessive moisture build up in your car's a/c system is bad news, so the receiver-dryer, a system filter that absorbs moisture, should be changed every once in awhile to prevent premature failure of other components. Replacement is a cheap maintenance service that costs around \$70 and should be done with a check and charge.

When no air comes out from the vents, there are several possible causes. For instance, maybe the compressor is bad. When a compressor works properly, it pumps refrigerant through an a/c system much like the human heart pumps blood throughout the body. Or maybe the control unit is malfunctioning. As the "brains" of the system, a control unit switches the a/c on and off when a desired temperature has been reached. Or maybe the vents aren't channeling any air because the a/c system has no electrical power. A diagnostic would be needed to determine what is wrong and usually costs between \$100 and \$200. Replacing the a/c control unit can cost approximately \$700, replacing the a/c compressor can cost around \$900, and isolating and repairing wiring to restore power is likely to cost between \$100 and \$300.

Another problem with air conditioners is foul-smelling air. This is most noticeable when switching from a/c to normal vent operation. The main cause

for this is bacteria build up on the a/c evaporator. This should be treated immediately by a professional because harboring bacteria inside the compartment of a passenger compartment can be unhealthy and lead to asthma and breathing difficulties. Most cases can be treated for under \$50; however, in extreme situations the evaporator may need to be removed and either replaced or sterilized. The amount of labor varies from vehicle to vehicle, but generally this will cost between \$400 and \$900.

A car's a/c system is designed to be a sealed system. In a sealed system, low or no refrigerant means there is a leak somewhere. It's uncommon for an a/c system to lose refrigerant every year or two. The system should be checked by a professional and repaired to prevent further leakage. Leakage is a result of worn rubber components such as hoses and o-rings. Rubber dries out over time and shrinks, allowing refrigerant to escape. Repairs would consist of replacing a hose or possibly renewing the connecting o-rings. Hoses tend to be expensive because they are only available from the manufacturer. Cost for such a repair runs between \$100 and \$500.

We hope this answers some of the questions you have about your automobile's air conditioning system.

*From: Sean & Melissa Stephens,
Owners of Bob's Volvo/Toyota Specialists*

Summer A/C Special

As a summer promotion for our Ask the Experts readers, we are offering A/C check and charge for only \$100 (regularly \$180). This price is for Volvo, Toyota and Honda customers only and is good until June 30th, 2006. Just clip this page and bring it with you to your appointment. (Not good with any other offers. One coupon per customer. This offer is for first-time customers only.)

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Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou work to unravel a puzzle in Ron Howard's movie version of Dan Brown's novel "The Da Vinci Code."

"Da Vinci" no masterpiece

...ulated, unlikely...
...whelms...
...anticipated film...
...Randy Myers...
...Da Vinci Code" is no...
...Nor is it as cheesily...
...one of those black vel...
...ages...
...Ron Howard's inter...
...of Dan Brown's con...
...best-selling novel falls...
...in between, a mildly...
...religious thriller that is

...intriguing premise —...
...squad of renegade...
...took drastic measures...
...rumors that Christ and...
...Malene were lovers —...
...a jaw-dropping con...
...matter your spiritual

...though the concept...
...deeply held beliefs and...
...naughty issues, screen...
...Goldman ("A Beau...
...edges his bets, hav...
...characters deliver caveats...
...that no bishops' reputa...
...here to yesteryear —...
...making this film. The...
...muddled movie that...
...apologetic when tak...
...watches at the Vatican...
...know if Brown did that...
...case since I'm one of the...
...supposedly avoided read...
...could judge the movie

...will, the "Da Vinci"...
...times across like little...
...a multimillion dollar...
...thunt, with a sour-puss...
...Tom Hanks) and a loo...
...looking cryptologist...
...Tautou) zipping about...
...the sweaty "Amazing...
...stants. It's fun to run...
...them, but you can't...
...you're on a slick car...
...and nothing more...
...separates "Da Vinci"...
...chase flicks is that the...
...trail leading to the

...their heels and poised...
...up at every histori...
...a self-flagellating...
...Paul Bettany of...
...who's the creepy ex...
...for a shadowy pres...
...only as The Teacher...
...characters in "Da Vinci"...
...one-dimensionally...
...with a "the" in front of...
...including The Cop...
...The Murdered Cu...
...Pierre Marielle) and...
...of Alfred Molina). You...
...spect, even hope, The...
...and The Skipper will



PAUL BETTANY plays a sinister monk known as The Teacher.

enter from stage left. These characters, like many in "Da Vinci," act as stepping stones so Professor Robert Langdon (Hanks) can dazzle us with his code-cracking genius. It's too bad that Hanks makes his Langdon seem like he'd be overtaxing his mental skills by unscrambling the daily Jumble. In the beginning, Langdon's book tour is rudely interrupted when he's taken to the scene of the crime where a Louvre curator has been ritualistically killed in the Da Vinci wing. The Cop wants to pin the blame on Langdon. Enter Sophie (Tautou), granddaughter of the dead Curator, who warns Langdon he's being set-up as the killer. No one can really be trusted within the shadowy institutional corridors that Howard takes us into. The director is adept at making us feel the overwhelming sense that this crime is covering up a huge conspiracy. Unfortunately, the complicated conspiracy theory in "Da Vinci" overburdens the film. Howard does his darndest to make the

lengthy and necessary expository parts palatable, even conjuring up spectacular Cecil B. DeMille-like Biblical flashbacks. These scenes make the lengthy revisionist lectures come alive, almost to the point that you wish he would have stayed with them longer. The same doesn't apply to all in the cast. Hanks turns out to be all wrong for the part. The likable actor just doesn't do anything with the role, and that's probably because Langdon doesn't have much of a soul; just a phobia that's used as shorthand for character development. Tautou fares better, since Sophie undergoes a lot of changes as the film progresses. The versatile actress ("Amelie," "Pretty Dirty Things") lights up the screen with a nearly saintly presence, cleverly dressed up to resemble a Catholic school girl. But the real acting fireworks can be found in the substantive secondary parts played by Ian McKellen ("Lord of the Rings") as a wealthier-than-Midas scholarly chum of Langdon's and Bettany as the Langdon and tortured

REVIEW
■ **WHAT:** "The Da Vinci Code"
■ **STARRING:** Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen, Paul Bettany
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (disturbing images, violence, some nudity, thematic material, brief drug references and sexual content)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 33 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
■ **GRADE:** C+
■ **ONLINE:** See the trailer at ContraCostaTimes.com.

ON DVD



"The Da Vinci Code" should increase the visibility of the luminous Audrey Tautou, star of the enchanting "Amelie." One of her best performances can be found in the unforgettable gem "He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not." This clever genre-bender about the complexities and dualities of love is absolutely unforgettable. If you're looking for another religious hot potato, check out 1985's "Agnes of God," starring Jane Fonda and Anne Bancroft. Meg Tilly co-stars as a young nun implicated in the death of a newborn found in her room. Too over-the-top at times, but still thought-provoking.

— Randy Myers

monk. These characters continually overshadow the bland, pedestrian Langdon. In the end, Langdon's cipher no one really bothered to piece together, an error that proves to be one of the many minor sins committed in "Da Vinci" that should require some penance.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "Blue Shoes and Happiness," by Alexander McCall Smith. (Pantheon, \$21.95.)
2. "Everyman," by Philip Roth. (Houghton Mifflin, \$24.)
3. "Digging to America," by Anne Tyler. (Knopf, \$24.95.)
4. "Suite Française," by Irene Nemirovsky. (Knopf, \$25.)
5. "Beach Road," by James Patterson and Peter de Jonge. (Little, Brown, \$27.95.)
6. "Promise Me," by Harlan Coben. (Dutton, \$26.95.)
7. "Mother," by Maya Angelou. (Random House, \$9.95.)
8. "Elements of Style," by Wendy Wasserstein. (Knopf, \$23.95.)
9. "Black Swan Green," by David Mitchell. (Random House, \$23.95.)
10. "Adverbs," by Daniel Handler. (Ecco, \$23.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "The Omnivore's Dilemma," by Michael Pollan. (Penguin, \$26.95.)
2. "Marley & Me," by John Grogan. (William Morrow, \$21.95.)
3. "The Mighty & the Almighty," by Madeleine Albright. (HarperCollins, \$25.95.)
4. "My Life in France," by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme. (Knopf, \$25.95.)
5. "You: The Owner's Manual," by Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz. (HarperCollins, \$24.95.)
6. "The World Is Flat (Updated and Expanded)," by Thomas L. Friedman. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$30.)
7. "Freakonomics," by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. (William Morrow, \$25.95.)
8. "Clemente," by David Maraniss. (Simon & Schuster, \$26.)
9. "Cobra II," by Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor. (Pantheon, \$27.95.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "Saturday," by Ian McEwan. (Anchor, \$14.95.)
2. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Anchor, \$14.95.)
3. "Never Let Me Go," by Kazuo Ishiguro. (Vintage, \$14.)
4. "The Mermaid Chair," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
5. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. (Picador, \$14.)
6. "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," by Lisa See. (Random House, \$13.95.)
7. "The History of Love," by Nicole Krauss. (Norton, \$13.95.)
8. "March," by Geraldine Brooks. (Penguin, \$14.)
9. "Zorro," by Isabelle Allende. (HarperPerennial, \$14.95.)
10. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Garlic and Sapphires," by Ruth Reichl. (Penguin, \$15.)
2. "In Cold Blood," by Truman Capote. (Vintage, \$14.)
3. "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," by John Perkins. (Plume, \$15.)
4. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
5. "Oh, the Glory of It All," by Sean Wilentz. (Penguin, \$15.)
6. "Eats, Shoots & Leaves," by Lynne Truss. (Gotham, \$11.)
7. "Man B," by Anne Lamott. (Riverhead, \$14.)
8. "The Tipping Point," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)
9. "The Glass Castle," by Jeannette Walls. (Scribner, \$14.)
10. "Night," by Elie Wiesel. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$9.)

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

Obituaries and In Memoriam



Kimberly Renee Evans

Resident of Richmond
Kimberly Renee Evans, a life long resident of the Richmond/Berkeley area, died Sunday, May 14, 2006 at Kaiser Medical Center in Richmond. She was 38. She attended Golden Gate Academy and graduated from DeAnza High School. She worked for UC Berkeley and the Berkeley Unified School District as a cook for 17 years. A past member of Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church and current member of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Kimberly enjoyed baking, housekeeping and doing hair. Survived by her sons, Davion and Waldo Butler; daughter, Shawntrelle Butler; father, Virgil Evans; brother, Frenchie Evans; sister, Trinita Evans; and nephew, Christopher Robinson. She was preceded in death by her mother, Darlene Evans and by her grandparents. Visitation Friday, May 19, 2006 from 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Sunset View Mortuary, top of Fairmount Avenue, El Cerrito. Funeral Service Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at the Mortuary. Interment will be private at Sunset View Cemetery. Memorial Gifts are suggested to the Carcinoid Cancer Foundation, Inc., 333 Mamoroneck Avenue #492, White Plains, NY 10605. Sunset View Mortuary (510) 525-5111

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Sara M. Meier

Resident of Oakland

Sara M. Meier, devoted wife and mother, died peacefully at home on May 10, 2006. Sara was born September 11, 1928 in Keyser, WV, and later moved with her parents, James Reed and Frances Hanna McDermott, and sister, Anna Jeanette, to Lansdowne, PA. She graduated from Duke University with a BA degree in 1950 before receiving her Master of Social Service degree from Bryn Mawr College in 1952. Her professional career as a social worker included positions with the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor and the Children's Home Society Adoption Agency in Oakland. She married her Duke sweetheart, Dr. Charles Meier, in 1952. They lived in the Piedmont Pines area of Oakland for over 36 years, where they raised their family. Sara and Charles were avid travelers, who were especially fond of cruising. After raising her two children and encouraging them to complete advanced degrees, she became especially active in local groups, including the Hillside Gardeners of Montclair, the Bellevue Club, and the AAUW and ACCMA Auxiliary Book groups. She was a knowledgeable sports fan, particularly of baseball, an excellent cook, and a tremendous supporter of her neighbors, friends, and their families. She loved listening to Souza marches, visiting art exhibits, and watching from her deck as the fog rolled across the Bay. Her eager curiosity and sense of determination to overcome any obstacle placed in her path were trademarks of her personality.

A widow since 2002, she is survived by her sister, Anna McDermott of Alexandria, VA; son, James Meier of St. Louis; and daughter, Dr. Pamela Meier of Issaquah, WA. Her cousin in-law, Rev. William R. Barrett of Concord presided over a memorial service at the Bellevue Club, 525 Bellevue Ave., in Oakland at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 18th. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial contributions to be made to either the International Myeloma Foundation, 12650 Riverside Dr., Suite 206, North Hollywood, CA, 91607 or the Hillside Gardeners of Montclair Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 13175, Oakland, CA, 94611.



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Arts & Leisure

Friday, May 19, 2006



J.B. ALDERMAN
On DVDs

'Family Stone' is dull as dirt

THE FAMILY STONE

The same marketing team that tried to convince us that ketchup is a vegetable was clearly brought in to sell "Stone" as a comedy. Coincidentally, there are the same number of laughs in this DVD as there are vitamins in ketchup: zero. Dermot Mulroney brings his ultra-uptight girlfriend (Sarah Jessica Parker) home to spend Christmas with his diverse, unruly family, led by matriarch Diane Keaton. Though unintentional, the surname Stone is apt for this clan, as they all have hearts of granite and the charm of limestone. The quality cast is ineptly deployed, and the only diamond to emerge from this lump of coal is Claire Danes, who plays Parker's down-to-earth sister. To add insult to comedic injury, this DVD also tries to tug at our heart strings with a schmaltzy "I'm dying of cancer" subplot. (PG-13: Mild sexual and drug content). 1 hour and 42 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 1½ stars

Kids: ½ star

Teens: 1 star

Adults: 1½ stars

Seniors: 1½ stars

Should you rent it? No — Devoid of laughs, full of clichés.

PROOF

I've missed Gwyneth Paltrow. Being a hands-on mother and living in England have cut into her movie-making time, which is a shame, since she's one of the best under-40 actresses around. In "Proof" Paltrow comes back to the screen in fine form — delivering a terrific performance as the troubled daughter of a legendary math professor (played by Anthony Hopkins). Reality, memories and hallucinations mingle to create a confusing and painful world for Paltrow's character, and we empathize every step of the way. Hopkins, who always manages to be fantastic regardless of the role, is perfectly cast in this not-too-intense drama. While there is nothing in here kids as young as 10 can't see, they are likely to be bored if you make them watch it. (PG-13: Mild sexual and drug content). 1 hour and 33 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Kids: 1 star

Teens: 2½ stars

Adults: 3 stars

Seniors: 3½ stars

Should you rent it? Yes — Great actors delightfully proving their skills.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

Based on the legendary book, "Narnia" is a cinematic epic that shines on DVD. Set in war-ravaged London, our heroes are four children who are sent north to the English countryside to escape the nightly German bombing raids (a journey my British-born mother also took during World War II). While playing in the giant home of their eccentric host, the children discover a magical clothing wardrobe that transports them to another realm, filled with talking animals, evil witches and heroic battles. The special effects, and everything else about this film, are marvelous. While this is billed as a film for children, the violence and death are too intense for anyone under 10. (PG: Violence). 2 hour and 15 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Kids: 4 stars

Teens: 3½ stars

Adults: 3 stars

Seniors: 3 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — A great family adventure film.

J.B. Alderman lives in Piedmont and can be reached at jason@alderman.net or via www.PhDVD.com.

'Art on Fire!' promises to spark curiosity

By Robert Taylor

STAFF WRITER

If Bay Area fans of Burning Man can't get to that extravaganza in the Nevada desert this summer, Burning Man is coming to them.

"Art on Fire!," the first San Francisco fire arts exposition, which opened Thursday night in a parking lot at Monster Park to showcase the more safe and sane aspects of the annual event.

"You can't re-create Burning Man in the city," says special events producer Steven Raspa. "This will give a flavor of some of the fire art that's showcased there, but in a more highly ordered, safe environment."

That hasn't stopped fire dancers and acrobatic performers, along with artists and kinetic sculptors, from promising the thrills of a carnival sideshow, with flash and flames.

Attractions planned through Saturday night include Jack Schroll's "El Diablo," a flame device with a military aircraft engine at its heart; Wally Glenn's "Propane Fountain and Zen Garden"; and the Flaming Lotus Girls' fiery archway that challenges visitors to walk through it.

Performers include the Oakland-based Fire Arts Collective with its theatrical duel of demon clans, the acrobatic stiltwalkers of the Carpetbag Brigade, the dancer who's performed as Flame Jockey Hot Pants, and Richard Friedberg, known as Toaster Boy.

Also on hand — the San Francisco Fire Department.

"We've wanted to do this for a number of years," Raspa says, "but it's been a real challenge to find a location that the Fire Department and the city felt comfortable with, and would also support the kind of art we wanted to do. We don't recommend that people do this at home."

Burning Man, most closely associated with a desert site north of Reno that draws tens of thousands of fans, actually began on a San Francisco beach in 1986. The organization has taken part in street fairs in the city's Dogpatch neighborhood (near Potrero Hill), but this week's event, Raspa says, is the largest assembly of fire art and performance in San Francisco.

"Fire is our mascot — it's about the creative spark, it's not about burning things down," says Michael Sturtz of the Crucible, which will be showing off its Ed-



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

PIECES SHOWCASED at the Fire Arts Exposition include "Pulsar," above left, by Oakland's Christopher Schardt, and this work by Orion Fredericks. Performers Cheryl Frailek and Craig Smith, members of the Fire Arts Collective, rehearse for the upcoming

EVENT PREVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Art on Fire!," the San Francisco Fire Arts Exposition

■ **WHERE:** Parking Lot C, Monster Park, 602 Jamestown Ave., S.F.

■ **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.-midnight tonight and Saturday

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$20-\$25 tonight and Saturday.

■ **CONTACT:** 415-865-3800,

www.burningman.com. More fire arts details and video: www.fireartscollective.com, www.thecrucible.org.

■ **ONLINE:** See video clips of Fire Arts Collective performers in action at ContraCostaTimes.com.

ucational Response Vehicle, a customized fire truck.

The truck is equipped for arc welding, metal flame-cutting, blacksmithing and glass sculpting, and includes a cannon that shoots a ball of flame 40 feet into the air. "It's a great way to make an entrance," Sturtz says.

The Crucible near downtown Oakland, which teaches and showcases fire, metal, glass and performing art, is planning its own Fire Arts Festival from July 12 to 15.

The Crucible's Web site lists performance classes in fire eating, fire breathing and "dragon breath." "We also had a flaming sword-balancing class for belly dancers," Sturtz says. "Fifteen people signed up — and there was a waiting list."

Oakland-based sculptor Christopher Schardt is a Burning Man veteran who will set up

his "Pulsar" at the exposition.

"It's a pretty unique piece in the world of fire art," Schardt says. It involves a motor turning a shaft and a ball spinning up to 120 revolutions per minute, shooting fire from propane tanks. "It shoots flames while it spins — not that far, just about 6 feet."

Is it dangerous? "I don't think so," Schardt says, "because everything is remotely controllable, and there's a kill switch on the machine that can stop it."

Sometimes, Schardt will hand the control box to a bystander. "I particularly enjoy saying, 'OK, now you do it.' It's quite a powerful feeling when you're in control of that much thermal energy."

Jon Dickinson of Oakland leads the Fire Arts Collective, a troupe of performers who have appeared at the Crucible's festi-



HEATHER GALLAGHER/STAFF

val and at Burning Man. They're working on their most extensive show yet, a kind of "Romeo and Juliet" in the underworld, for one of the stages at the "Art on Fire!" exposition.

"It's going to be full-scale, choreographed, with music and costumes and makeup," Dickinson says. Performers will be jousting with flaming swords while bouncing on spring-mounted stilts. They will spin fire on chains and work with, as Dickinson describes them, "our standard fire jump ropes."

There will be fire eating for this Romeo and Juliet as well — in a love scene.

Being able to play with fire

legally is a definite attraction from his youth, when he says, "I think all the group are borderline maniacs."

He dismisses the idea that performers are getting burned.

"It comes with the territory," Dickinson says. "Any time you're playing with fire, it's going to burn you. But really quickly."

Reach Robert Taylor at 977-8428 or rtaylor@cctimes.com.

Take model train to land of educational fun

Why it's cool: The Golden State Model Railroad Museum is one of the largest model railroad museums in the country. It is 10,000 square feet of railroad nirvana, all constructed by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Thomas the Tank Engine should be so lucky. Elaborate landscaping and fine detail bring historic scenes to life as tiny trains chug through Donner Pass, the Tehachapi Loop and downtown Oakland layouts.

What kids like: Kids are fascinated by the moving trains as they steam through the mountainous terrain and wend their way through scenic, historic landscapes. And a scavenger hunt will keep them busy looking for the hobo campfire or the herd of deer. "Some kids spend hours on that," said museum board member John Edginton. "It's absolutely astonishing."

You can take the fun home, too, courtesy of the museum's new movie, "Train Play" (\$14.95 plus tax, DVD format, 50 minutes).

What parents like: It's not just cool, it's educational. The layouts are modeled after actual Bay Area scenes from the 1950s and '60s. Look for the Martinez trestle and Oakland's historic 16th Street Station.

What grandparents like: This could be the start of a whole new hobby — or the revival of a beloved one. Edginton's passion for trains began in kindergarten, but he took a 40-year hiatus before returning to what he calls "the world's greatest hobby" in 1994.

Railroad lingo, or what all those strange letters mean: Model railroad devotees toss around terms such as scale and gauge — and you can, too. The gauge is the distance between the tracks. The scale is the ratio be-



JOE WYKA and his son Cody, 3, take in the tiny trains at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Point Richmond.

tween model and actual size. This museum features O (1:48), HO (1:87) and N (1:160) scale railroads. Those teeny-tiny finely detailed N's are particularly favored by railroad enthusiasts with huge layouts ... or not much space.

Parking tips: The museum is in the second, larger building on the left as you enter the park (the first building is home to the Richmond Ramblers Motorcycle Club). Maps and directions are available online. Parking is plentiful and free along Dornan Drive and in the Miller/Knox Regional

Shoreline lot across the street.

P.S.: The museum is also open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. The trains don't run, but you can look at the layouts for free.

Afterwards: Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline is a beautiful spot for a picnic. Or, take a stroll around Point Richmond's adorable town center. This throwback to the past includes charming Victorian buildings, shops and cafes. The Hidden City Cafe (109 Park Place) serves wonderful breakfasts and

lunches and great upscale cheeseburgers, and ethnic eateries abound.

More trains: This isn't the only place to see model railroads in action. The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society has a show May 20 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Walnut Creek train exhibit is at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. in Larkey Park. Tickets are \$2 for kids and seniors, \$3 for everyone else. Get the scoop at www.wcmrs.org or call 925-937-1888.

— Jackie Burrell, staff writer, jburrell@cctimes.com

THE BASICS

■ **WHERE:** 900-A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond, near the entrance to Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline.

■ **HOURS:** The trains run five days from noon to 5 p.m.

■ **TICKETS:** A family of four (two adults and two children under 12 and seniors 65 and over) can see the trains for \$10.

■ **CONTACT:** 925-937-1888 or www.gsmmm.org

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

ing supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, May 19, 2006

Section D

The 2006 Ford Explorer has numerous improvements

BY TOM KEANE

MOTOR MATTERS

...a best-selling sport utility vehicle. The Explorer has more power, better handling, advanced safety, plus a quiet, comfortable ride.

...this 2006 model has eye-appeal with its new design. The Explorer has a bolder appearance with its new grille. My tester also had the optional 18-inch chrome wheels. I couldn't wait to get in the Explorer.

...a 4.6-liter V8 engine producing 264 horsepower, which is 53 horsepower more than the previous model. This engine is paired with a six-speed automatic transmission delivering a quicker, quieter, more powerful acceleration and the 4x4 AUTO Transfer Case to provide maximum traction under all driving conditions.

...that performance and fuel economy go hand-in-hand with the right vehicle. I'm told that's why Ford has redesigned the Explorer's six-speed transmission, electronic variable cam timing and other technologies.

...economy remains a major concern for shoppers and this Explorer delivers 20 mpg city, 26 mpg highway. With skyrocketing gasoline prices, numbers might deter some buyers, but big, heavy SUVs. And this Explorer is a five-passenger model — longer seating is available — 4,706 pounds and capable of towing 5,000 pounds.

...might attract buyers are features for a total of 10 comfort and convenience items. In addition, the Explorer's crash safety features that the new adaptive safety system work together to estimate the occupant and impact severity, the SUV to manage those who have advanced traction control, stability control. Knowing this, behind the wheel.



THE 2006 EXPLORER
V8, far left, delivers more horsepower than before for improved performance, yet still delivers improved fuel economy. Dash features, top, include a message center containing a compass, temperature and trip computer plus redundant controls on the steering wheel. The available third-row seat, left, now features a 50/50-split for increased flexibility carrying people and cargo.

MOTOR MATTERS

KEANE ON WHEELS

With the immediate response to the accelerator pedal it was thrilling to give the Explorer a good workout. And I quickly noticed the comfort of the 10-way power driver's seat. Because it is such a smooth-riding vehicle, it compares favorably to a big luxury sedan.

Let me clarify the word "big." My tester seated five passengers and had a huge storage area accessible through a rear hatch that also contained a glass window. In addition, the 60/40-rear bench seat allowed for additional cargo.

Another eye-appealing feature was the mix of wood-grain interior trim. It also had an electronic mirror, a message center containing a compass, temperature and trip computer plus redundant controls on the steering wheel, which enabled me to keep my eyes on the road when changing radio

FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER EDITION

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger, 4x4 sport utility vehicle
Suggested Retail	\$33,625
Price As Tested	\$39,995
Engine Type	24-valve SOHC V8 w/SMPFI
Horsepower	292 @ 5,750 rpm
Torque	300 @ 3,950 rpm
Transmission	Six-speed automatic
Wheelbase	114 inches
Height	73 inches
Curb Weight	4,706 pounds
Fuel Capacity	22 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 14/20

stations or setting speed controls. For safety, I made it a point to pull over to the side of the road when setting the (optional) navigational system.

To give this vehicle a good workout I drove to a hilly area with twisty roads. I was

with the way it handled, and how quickly it responded to increased acceleration when going uphill. But what was most impressive was the low-level interior noise. The NVH factor — noise vibration and harshness — is a concern of all manufac-

turers and Ford has done a great job in addressing it.

In spite of its numerous improvements, one interesting question remains. The best-selling SUV is reasonably priced at \$33,625. But considering the price of gasoline, will Ford salespeople be forced to ask potential buyers: Deal or no deal?

INSIDE

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The Saab Aero X concept car hints at future design style

BY HERB SHULDINER
MOTOR MATTERS

The Saab Aero X concept car reveals Saab's new styling language, says Alex Daniel, leader of the project team. "If we were designing a production car, it would be a touch smaller," he says.

Daniel says it's unlikely Saab will ever produce the two-seater as it looks in concept form. Yet he hints some Aero X features will show up in the next-generation 9-3. The next 9-3 won't debut for at least another two years.

The Aero X is engineered to be as swift as its design looks. It is equipped with a 400-horsepower twin turbo V6 that runs on 100 percent ethanol. An automatic trans-

DOWN THE ROAD

mission with paddle shifters is used. The vehicle's top speed is electronically limited to about 130 mph and it can accelerate from 0- to 60 mph in a swift 4.9 seconds.

Daniel says his four-man design team had two overall goals. It wanted a design that represented Saab's aircraft heritage (the company was founded by a group of aircraft engineers) and Swedish design elements. The Aero X reveals its aircraft influence with its proportions — a long hood that reminds one of a jet's long nose.

"If you removed the wheels, it

would look like a plane's fuselage," Daniel says. But if you look carefully at the vehicle's wheels, note the spoke design's resemblance to turbo engines.

The most striking exterior elements of the car are the wrap-around windshield (there are no A pillars) and the all-glass roof that looks like an escape canopy in a jet fighter. Daniel admits that Saab would have to invent some type of pop-up roll bar that would go in front of the driver to provide crashworthiness in the event of a rollover.

There are no door pillars in the Aero X. Instead, Daniel's team designed a canopy that opens to provide entry into the cockpit. That's similar to what you would

see on a jet fighter. The overall purpose of the wrap-around windshield and the canopy doors is to provide the driver with a remarkable 180-degree field of vision.

There are no door handles, rubbing strips or spoilers to disturb the clean design. "We tried to create a premium product," Daniel says. "We tried to do things in a Swedish way." The exterior and interior designs show simplicity and originality. "We didn't put anything where it doesn't have any function," he says. "For instance, the door hinges didn't need to be more than a simple part. We kept it mechanical and functional, without fancy polishing," he says.

There are no conventional rear

taillights. A slim white bar that contains Light Emitting Diodes runs across the back of the vehicle. LEDs are compact and also have a long life, so the Saab designers used LEDs for the front detail lights also.

The interior also reflects Swedish design simplicity. Daniel selected colors to resemble Swedish seasons with winter and summer contrasts. Though it doesn't have an ignition key, the Aero X has a smart-looking green start button that's located on the floor in a traditional Saab spot.

The instrument panel looks like it could be that of a jet plane. "The glass industry and the manufacturing of precision instruments is very strong in southern Sweden

where we are based," Rökke, who designed the interior, says. There are no conventional buttons. Saab uses touch-sensitive techniques to create buttons that produce graphic displays.

"This is what a high-end car from Saab could look like," Daniel says. "It is interesting to see a strong emotional reaction to it. It's poised for a decision on whether the investment will fund the Aero X production car is still a long way off."

A true sports car is something that lacks in its product. Something resembling it could give Saab a new



THE SAAB AERO X CONCEPT CAR on display at the New York International Auto Show on April 12.

CONNIE KEANE/MOTOR MATTERS

Oil leaks and hot exhaust spell fire hazard

BY JUNIOR DAMATO
MOTOR MATTERS

Dear Doctor: I own a 1999 Plymouth Breeze and noticed some oil spots on the ground where I park the car. I took the car to four different shops and all they said the leak is coming from the cylinder head gasket. The engine oil level has never gone down and estimates for repairs range from \$600 to \$900. I only drive a few times a week, 50-75 miles. Will I do any damage if I continue driving without getting it fixed? — Allen

Dear Allen: Oil leaks and faulty head gaskets are not uncommon with Chrysler four-cylinder engines. As for the cost of repair, it runs \$600-plus, depending on the condition of the cylinder head. Should you choose not to make the repair, keep an eye on the oil level and leak. If the leak gets worse and oil leaks onto the hot exhaust, a fire hazard will be present.

Dear Doctor: The windshield wipers stopped working on my 1990 Volvo during a recent storm. Now I hear what I think is the wiper motor. What could be wrong? — Dee

Dear Dee: A common problem is that plastic connectors wear out, and/or a part of the wiper linkage has failed.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Chrysler New Yorker that is in good condition but the brake lights and flashers do not work. I checked all the bulbs and fuses. Any suggestions would be appreciated. — Dorothy

Dear Dorothy: A quick check of power at the brake light switch is in order. If the brake light switch has 12 volts on both sides of the switch with the brake pedal depressed, follow the power up

AUTO DOCTOR

the steering column through the directional switch and back down the steering column. A wiring diagram would also be a big help.

Dear Doctor: My husband and I recently purchased a 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier with only 29,000 miles for our college-age son. The owner's manual says to change the transmission fluid at 50,000 miles. With such low mileage and the year of the car, I suggested to my husband that we should get the fluid changed. He says we should wait until the car hits 50,000 miles. — Debbie

Dear Debbie: I agree with you. Even with the low mileage, you should get the fluids changed. In fact, the car should be fully checked by a qualified technician. The battery and coolant are very important.

Dear Doctor: I own a 2000 Chrysler LHS and purchased the extended warranty. Recently while driving on a highway the cover that covers the windshield wiper parts blew off. I went back to the dealer and they said the cost to repair is \$225. They called the warranty company and they said it was not covered. I called Chrysler and they also said there is no coverage or recalls on this plastic cover. What do you think? — Frank

Dear Frank: I would say a service person that made the repair to the wiper motor and/or wiper linkage did not properly fasten the cover back in place. This is not the fault of the manufacturer. Have the dealer check the records to see if the repair was done at their dealership. Also, get another estimate for the repair. This cover could also be

available at an automotive salvage yard at a reduced cost.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Dodge Caravan and try to do many of the repairs myself. I was told that I should replace some fuel lines in the engine compartment and at the gas tank. The shop advised me to cut the metal lines and use a rubber gas line hose, which I did. I still need to run some hose from the fuel tank. What's the best way to get to the fuel lines above the fuel tank? — Phil

Dear Phil: Keep in mind that you are messing with gas lines and the smallest error could become a major problem. My suggestion is to take the van to a qualified technician to check the rubber gas lines under the hood. Fuel-injected engines operate from a low of 18 pounds to a high of 65 pounds. There are special high-pressure rubber gas lines that need to be used on fuel-injected engines. As for getting to the lines at the fuel tank, the fuel tank might have to be removed

to access the lines and a qualified technician should do this.

Dear Doctor: I own a 2000 Chevy Suburban half-ton 4x4 with 65,000 miles. The transmission has shifting problems when the temperature drops to around 32 degrees or colder. The up-shifts from first, second and third are delayed. When the temperature is above the freezing mark the transmission shifts fine. I have taken the truck to the dealer, but they cannot find any problems. My extended warranty will expire this summer. — Kevin

Dear Kevin: Delayed shifts are to warm up the engine faster and produce less emissions. Alldata and Identifix both list the same Technical Service Bulletin #01-07-013 relating to late up shifts when the temperature is 32 degrees or lower. If you can depress the gas pedal about half way down, the computer will divert to the normal shift points. If you let the engine warm up a few extra minutes, then the transmission fluid and engine temperature will warm up and the shifting may be normal.

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Refurbished 1955 Kaiser Manhattan sedan is not for sale

CLASSIC CLASSICS

VERM PARKER
 (MOTOR MATTERS)
 When Melvin L. Louque spent time in the Army Air Force as a mechanic, he returned home to La. where he took work as an automobile mechanic. A particularly memorable year was 1955. That's when he was a furniture salesman in his hometown of several times driving a 1955 Kaiser Manhattan sedan.

The four-door sedan had so many chrome and stainless steel trim pieces every other car on the street. Louque remembers it was the most beautiful car he ever saw. It had whitewall wheels and a contrasting painted bright yellow "hot rod" top," Louque says. "I always wondered what happened to it."

When four decades passed and Louque retired he joined the Kaiser Frazer Club and was searching for one of the cars of his youth. He found a 1954 Kaiser Manhattan four-door sedan in a garage. The 1954 and 1955 models were virtually identical, but Louque had to think about a 118.5-inch wheelbase.

Louque had to think about a 118.5-inch wheelbase. He found a 1954 Kaiser Manhattan four-door sedan in a garage. The 1954 and 1955 models were virtually identical, but Louque had to think about a 118.5-inch wheelbase.

Louque had to think about a 118.5-inch wheelbase. He found a 1954 Kaiser Manhattan four-door sedan in a garage. The 1954 and 1955 models were virtually identical, but Louque had to think about a 118.5-inch wheelbase.

He reports that the headliner is original and the seats are upholstered in a light brown fabric. Even without power steering, Louque reports, "The car steers really good. Of course it has a big steering wheel."

The Kaiser is powered by a 226-cubic-inch, inline six-cylinder engine that produces 140 horsepower with the help of a McCulloch supercharger. Power from the engine is transferred to the rear wheels through a General Motors dual-range automatic transmission.

After Louque owned the handsome Kaiser a few years and had time to check it out from the concave grille to the Safety-Glo taillights, he was prepared by April 2005 to have it repainted the yellow and black combination like the furniture salesman's car he remembered from long ago.

He set about taking all the chrome and stainless steel brightwork off the car, including the unidirectional Safety-Glo taillight.

"This car has no rust," Louque says, "and being an old-time auto mechanic, I have replaced and redone just about everything except the inside of the motor," he says.

While the car was stripped down Louque replaced the brake system, brake lines, wheel cylinders, fuel lines, aluminum gasoline tank and electric fuel pump.

With all the chrome parts sent off for replating, Louque had the radiator cleaned and purchased a new heater core. He was surprised to learn that many of the parts for his Kaiser are still available at his local NAPA store.

All the parts were assembled and ready to be installed on the car as soon as it came back from the paint



MELVIN LOUQUE SAYS PROUDLY of his 1955 Kaiser Manhattan sedan, "Everything is in tip-top shape. If you see the car you're going to want to buy it from me, but it's not for sale."

shop. The month of May came and went, as did June, July and August, plus all of autumn until finally Louque got an early Christmas present.

Once he brought his treasured Kaiser home it didn't take long for him to put it all back together. Before he put the seats back in the

car he installed a new floor silencer, jute pad under the new brown carpeting.

For the sake of safety in modern-day traffic, Louque installed a pair of exterior sideview mirrors on the car that sold new for a base price of \$2,670. The Kaiser is

nicely equipped with an AM radio, clock, heater and signal indicators. "It was a modern car at the time," Louque recalls.

"Everything is in tip-top shape," Louque says proudly. "If you see the car you're going to want to buy it from me," he says, adding, "but

it's not for sale."

For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Abbottsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181. Only photos of good quality will be considered.

Reader mailbag sends strong message to U.S. automakers

SHE'S FREEWHEELING
 (MOTOR MATTERS)
 I delivered a speech to hard-core engineers and designers from various auto and automotive supplier to spend their days on product development, cost reduction and making, they wanted me to be the consumer.

SHE'S FREEWHEELING

them a sense of what the customers who read my column have to say. I shared with them that you have very long memories when it comes to bad product quality and lousy customer experiences, especially with domestic manufacturers.

I told them that your comments on the domestics generally are pas-

sionate, but not positive. I read excerpts from some of your letters. Some in the audience cringed — particularly the host who had asked me to speak. Others sat up and took notice.

I further shared that many of you believe the workers and their union are to blame for the woes of GM and Ford; but most of you blame top management and people like those in my audience who make the product decisions.

I pointed out that the message coming through loud and clear is that quality, dependability and reliability are absolutely No. 1. Why? The opposite makes our lives painfully difficult, and we all want our lives to be easier and less stressful.

From your letters, I told them I had concluded that the most for-

midable challenge facing GM and Ford is perception. Readers with whom I have communicated in response to negative comments about the domestics know things have changed dramatically, that product quality across the board is light years ahead of what it was back then and that some domestic

vehicles actually score higher in quality and long-term dependability than the imports.

Still, I told my audience that getting the product and quality right the first time is critical because you won't get a second chance. The

See FREEWHEELING, Page D4

US FIRST, OR SEE US LAST. AFTER ALL, IT'S YOUR MONEY



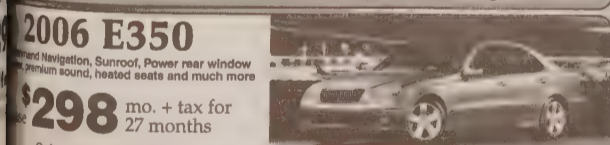
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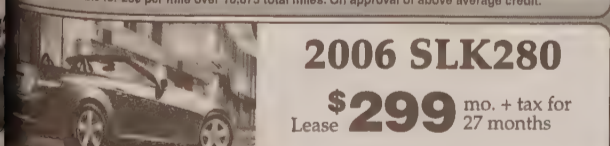
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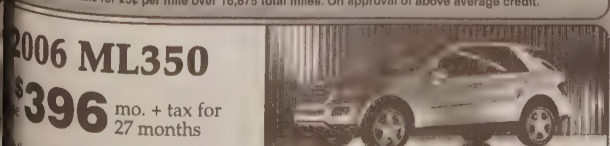


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465-4667 MASTER

anced, and the apartment
felt pretty good, as
radical. Some alter-

2-WHEELING TODAY

transmission, even though the indicator light was on. The problem was caused by the shifter drum star being too shallow and was remedied by replacing the drum, detent arm and neutral switch. Other improvements include larger diameter axles (now 1-inch) and a wider 17-inch rear wheel shod with a fatter, 160/70 B17 tire.

Remaining in place are the twin exposed coil-over rear shocks, a raked fork, redesigned battery box, and classic Fat Bob fuel tank. The Street Bob is guided down the road and through the "twisties" by way of mini-apexhanger handlebars that line up with the fork angle.

Power is provided by Harley's 1450 cc air-cooled, Twin Cam 88 with electronic sequential port fuel injection, but with several improvements — things such as 10 percent greater oil pump flow with 23 percent more scavenging capability are important, as is the new automatic primary chain tensioner that eliminates the need for chain adjustment and the inspection cover.

The primary drive ratio is bumped from 1.44:1 to 1.353:1. As already mentioned, the motor mates to the new six-speed gearbox, but with a newly designed engine/transmission interface that includes integral oil passages. In all, there are more than 100 major enhancements and improvements.

The Street Bob's styling was inspired by the post-World War II "bobber" theme, doing away with all componentry not required by law — kind of a minimalist approach. The mini-aapehangers, short front fender,

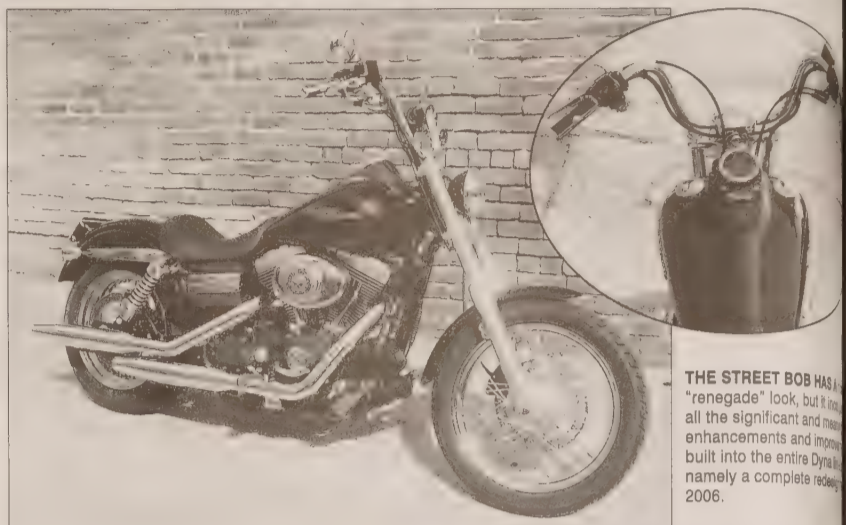
ished in Vivid Black (gloss) rather than the preferred Black Denim, with the base price set at \$15,240. The price as-tested for my highly accessorized bike came to \$18,191 — it featured lots of P A chrome Harley-Davidson "Skull" theme pieces.

Summary

The Street Bob surprised me. I'm not a big fan of larger "chopper-style" front wheels or ape-hanger handlebars, nor do I prefer mid-positioned controls, due primarily to my "long-legged" 6'4"

makeup. Initially, I felt somewhat awkward in terms of foot placement on the pegs and operating the rear brake, not to mention shifting. The addition of forward frame-mounted road pegs made cruising down the road considerably more comfortable — and that's where the Street Bob is most at home — tooling along in the 50 mph or so range. It also shines when "showboating" around town, with its semi-bad boy aura.

The bike is exceptionally well bal-



MOTOR MATTERS

THE STREET BOB HAS A
"renegade" look, but it incorporates
all the significant and meaningful
enhancements and improvements
built into the entire Dyna line,
namely a complete redesign
2006

FROM PAGE D3

I told them that I get letters from domestic supporters, who say their American vehicles have lasted a long time without quality problems and repair bills, which are far less expensive than on import vehicles.

I further told my audience that I also hear many consumers are confused and overwhelmed by the

vast array of vehicles available. And consumers are just as confused and overwhelmed by the huge amount of information available. They wonder — where is the truth and what information is reliable? Yet despite all the variety of vehicles in the market, there are the inevitable questions, such as why doesn't this company make that kind of vehicle?

I also told my predominantly male audience that consumers are not monolithic. All kinds of consumers exist. I'm sure some were turned off by my complaint that women are virtually ignored. Young women are only marginally of interest, even though they make up the majority of college and MBA students these days. And forget about over-50 women, despite the fact that

our kids are gone, we have disposable income and we are ready to reward ourselves with the cars we want. Instead, automakers focus on people like themselves — and “active males under 25.”

Despite the challenges of this industry, no company gets every aspect right all of the time, which creates opportunity for competitors. Compelling, high-quality products accompanied by outstanding customer service are the critical keys to a turnaround and success. I concluded,

The question and answer period was spirited. I got lots of questions — ones about vehicles that scored well and ones that flopped, what consumer segments are underserved, what's the next big thing in vehicles, who does the

best on designing interiors and providing clever features and what's next in that regard. Some loved the mailbag section of my speech; others were horrified, feeling like I was beating them up more than they already were.

So readers, I did what many of you asked — I delivered your messages to the people who can make a difference. I thank you for reading my column and for writing to me. Keep it up.

To reach Michelle Krebs, send e-mail to michkrebs@aol.com.

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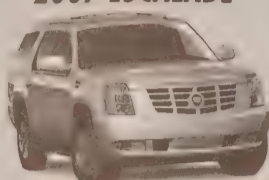
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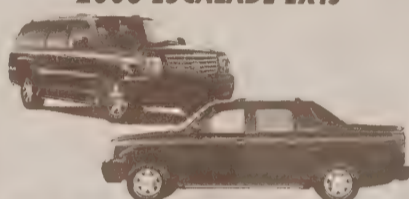
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\$699 PER MONTH + Tax
ON APPROVED LENDER CREDIT

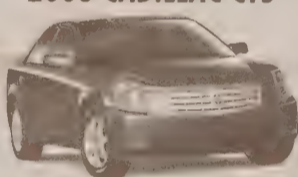
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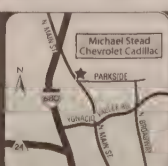


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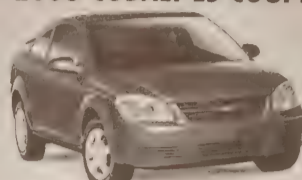
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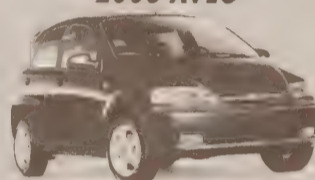


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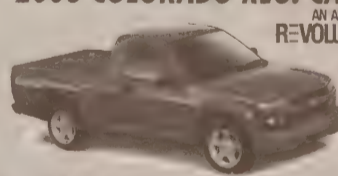


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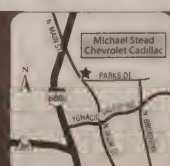
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Key to cars for teens is safety

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

It's almost that time of year again: High school graduations are looming. And one of the most popular graduation presents is a car — especially for the kids who are planning to head off to college in the fall and need wheels to take to school.

Some teens also will be getting their first jobs, and parents often help with a car purchase to give a son or daughter reliable transportation to work.

Deciding what is the best vehicle for a teen, though, is something many parents agonize over.

With most parents, safety is the biggest concern. But other factors include price, economy of operation and reliability.

For the kids, styling — particularly the car's level of "cool" — usually is the most important factor.

And for some, particularly boys, performance is king.

Practicality is often parents' biggest factor, and it includes a

variety of considerations, such as price, reliability, safety and economy of operation.

The best move is to give a teen as safe a vehicle as you can find within your budget. High-performance cars just aren't in the mix; most young drivers don't have the skill or maturity to handle a vehicle with an abundance of power.

And to keep our kids the safest, it makes sense to buy them only very large vehicles that can protect the occupants if an accident occurs.

The problem with that is that the bigger and safer the vehicles are, the more they cost.

Consumer Reports publishes a list of vehicles it recommends for teen drivers, along with the magazine's own reliability ratings.

Among the recommended cars are the Ford Focus, Honda Accord EX (four-cylinder), Honda Civic EX, Mazda3, Nissan Altima 2.5S (four-cylinder), Subaru Forester 2.5X, Toyota Camry XLE (V-6) and LE (four-cylinder), Toyota Corolla LE, Toyota RAV4 and Volkswagen

Passat (four-cylinder). There are no trucks on that list, and only two SUVs, both of them car-based crossover compacts.

This is a pretty good list from the standpoint of reliability and economy of operation, and you can see that Consumer Reports generally doesn't recommend anything more than a four-cylinder engine for a teen.

That's sound advice. The faster a car will go, the faster a teen will drive it. And the faster it goes, the more likely it will be involved in an accident.

As for vehicle size, there are strong arguments for putting kids in mid- or full-size pickups rather than small cars such as the Focus, Civic and Corolla.

The more hard steel you can put around your kids when they're out on the road, the more likely they are to survive a crash.

A pickup with only a front bench seat or a pair of bucket seats is also a good idea for a teen. Then he or she won't be able to fill the vehicle with friends who might be a major

distraction to the driver while they're out cruising.

If you pick out one with a pair of bucket seats, the teen will be able to take just one other person along. Studies have shown that the more people there are in a car, the more likely a teen driver is to have an accident. Some states even restrict younger drivers to just one passenger unless a parent or responsible adult is present.

A regular-cab Chevrolet Silverado/GMC Sierra, Ford F-150, Dodge Ram or Toyota Tundra with a V6 engine might be a good choice. These vehicles put a lot of metal around the occupants to protect them during collisions.

Compact/midsize pickups with just a front seat also might be good choices, and they are economical to buy and operate — particularly those with four-cylinder engines. Among the best are the Toyota Tacoma and Nissan Frontier, known for their long-term reliability and economy of operation.

But there also are plenty of Ford Rangers, Chevrolet S10s, GMC Sonomas and the newer Chevy Colorados and GMC Canyons to choose from, as well as the Mazda B-series trucks, which are clones of

the Ford Rangers.

SUVs can be a concern because of their rollover potential, particularly some of the high-profile models. But when you balance the rollover potential with the overall structural safety an SUV provides, these vehicles might be a good choice for some teens.

Among models to consider are the Toyota 4Runner, Nissan Pathfinder, Mitsubishi Outlander, Ford Escape/Mazda Tribute, Suzuki Vitara/Chevy Tracker, Honda CR-V, RAV4, Kia Sportage, Nissan Xterra and Saturn Vue.

Some of the newer wagon/crossover models worth consideration are the Honda Element, Toyota Matrix/Pontiac Vibe, Scion xB and xA. These are smaller vehicles that provide less structural protection but offer greater economy of operation — kind of a middle ground between big and safe and small and cheap to run.

There are some cars that probably just aren't a good idea for young drivers.

These include the Ford Mustang GT and the Chevy Corvette.

But V6 models of the Mustang would be fine for those who like the styling and want a cool car. They

aren't as cheap to operate as the Ford Mustang GT, Camry, Corolla or other models they're more fun — even if it's just a V8.

Some of the cars on Consumer Reports' list are quite nice, including the Mazda3, Altima and Passat.

The Mazda Protege, replaced by the Mazda3, is a good choice among small cars used cars, as is the 626, which has been replaced by the Mazda6.

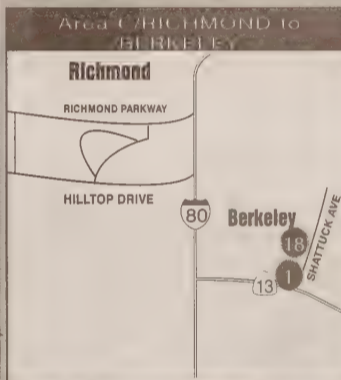
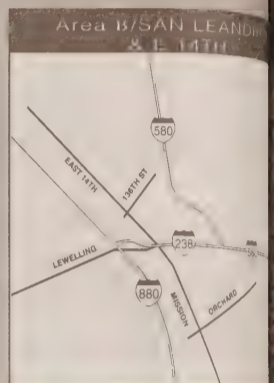
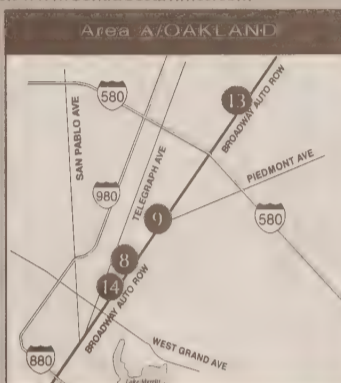
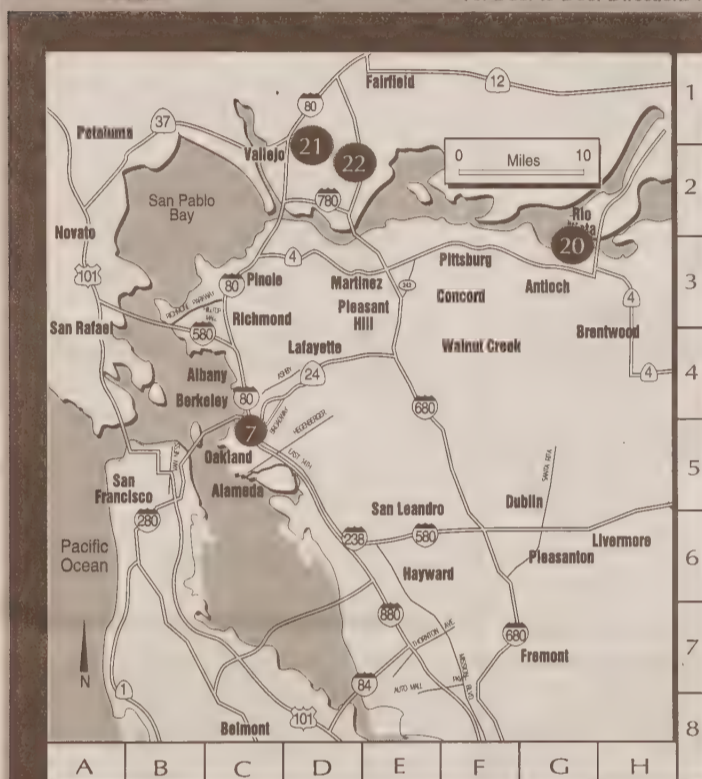
You might not want to teen into a small sports car as the Mazda Miata. Small open-top cars aren't better for more experienced drivers. In fact, they're a bad idea for a teen.

Whatever vehicle you choose for your teen or college-bound child, make sure the safety is in good condition and that the driver understands their limitations. Studies show that occupants are more likely to survive an accident in a car that has rolled over than in a car that has smashed into a wall — but only if the SUV's occupants are wearing safety belts.

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SALES

ALAMEDA
 1389,000
 769,000
 840,000
 699,000
 825,000
 608,000
 690,000
 602,000
 518,000
 375,000
 770,000
 775,000

BERKELEY
 450,000
 425,000

EMERYVILLE
 1,000,000
 485,000
 735,000
 770,000
 760,000
 765,000
 510,000
 728,000
 875,000
 1,250,000
 775,000
 225,000
 875,000
 540,000
 573,000
 780,000
 900,000
 581,000

FREMONT
 679,000
 650,000
 581,500
 664,000
 510,000
 680,000
 1,200,000

MANATE
 443,500
 725,000
 669,000
 259,000

VALLEJO
 374,000
 625,000
 360,000
 305,000
 378,000
 270,000
 400,000

WATSON
 615,000
 949,000

OAKLAND

2123 106th Av - \$499,500
 1429 16th St - \$600,000
 802 21st St - \$655,000
 619 22nd St C - \$385,000
 2637 23rd Av - \$400,000
 2726 23rd Av - \$320,000
 2503 26th Av - \$457,000
 1012 36th St - \$540,000
 2623 38th Av - \$415,000
 1007 41st Av 311 - \$398,000
 665 43rd St - \$850,000
 919 53rd St - \$545,000
 820 57th St - \$700,000
 3500 62nd Av - \$385,000
 2314 66th Av - \$412,000
 1028 71st Av - \$275,000
 1058 72nd Av - \$410,000
 1635 74th Av - \$435,000
 2515 75th Av - \$450,000
 1274 76th Av - \$440,000
 1324 77th Av - \$400,000
 1563 78th Av - \$460,000
 1267 82nd Av - \$125,000
 1211 83rd Av - \$340,000
 2024 8th Av - \$525,000
 2453 9th Av - \$480,000
 1317 92nd Av - \$590,000
 1731 9th St - \$500,000
 6201 Acacia - \$1,300,000
 1323 Adeline St - \$595,000
 585 Alleen St - \$650,000
 2100 Arrowhead - \$1,270,000
 1448 Ausen Av - \$339,000
 5803 Avenal Av - \$505,000
 10927 Bancroft Av - \$675,000
 15 Bell Waver Wy - \$962,000
 717 Brookhurst St - \$500,000
 4066 Brown Av - \$564,000
 5831 Buena Vista - \$1,360,000
 13355 Campus - \$1,750,000
 2309 Church St - \$475,000
 1520 Commerce - \$382,000
 4117 Coolidge Av - \$751,000
 719 East 10th St - \$500,000
 425 East 11th St 19 - \$397,000
 425 East 11th St 20 - \$439,000
 425 East 11th St 25 - \$423,000
 425 East 11th St 6 - \$535,000
 425 East 11th St 7 - \$539,000
 145 East 15th St - \$845,000
 2555 East 15th St - \$660,000
 2142 East 19th St - \$665,000
 2919 East 23rd St - \$510,000
 1238 East 33rd St - \$530,000
 3924 Everett Av - \$655,000
 2027 Filbert St - \$510,000
 3597 Fruitvale Av - \$725,000
 3129 Frye St - \$1,027,500
 7520 Garfield Av - \$385,000
 7528 Garfield Av - \$355,000
 6946 Halliday Av - \$193,000
 7960 Hansom Dr - \$800,000
 4519 Harbord Dr - \$758,000
 5467 Harbord Dr - \$800,000
 3768 Harrison 301 - \$320,000
 2451 Havenscourt - \$520,000
 2676 Havenscourt - \$650,000
 6108 Hayes St - \$588,000
 3664 High St - \$650,000
 2044 Hoover Av - \$795,000

4101 Howe St 205 - \$529,000
 5685 Keith Av - \$861,000
 2612 Kingsland Av - \$545,000
 1425 Lakeside 305 - \$335,000
 5419 Locksley Av - \$1,150,000
 3066 Madeline St - \$509,000
 3230 Maple Av - \$550,000
 6000 Mauritania - \$570,000
 851 Mead Av - \$550,000
 853 Mead Av - \$550,000
 5805 Merriewood - \$1,137,500
 2621 Minna Av - \$483,500
 2925 Morgan Av - \$675,000
 1032 Mountain Bl - \$900,000
 852 Mountain Bl - \$1,600,000
 311 Oak St 321 - \$489,000
 311 Oak St 830 - \$500,000
 2450 Palmetto St - \$775,000
 901 Paramount Rd - \$1,400,000
 330 Park View 102 - \$325,000
 150 Pearl St 315 - \$250,000
 260 Perkins St 2D - \$252,000
 826 Portal Av - \$650,000
 93 Rishell Dr - \$863,000
 6315 Roanoke - \$1,000,000
 836 Santa Ray Av - \$723,500
 6944 Saroni Dr - \$675,000
 7924 Shy Dr - \$776,000
 6764 Sims Dr - \$1,000,000
 11980 Skyline - \$1,400,000
 12363 Skyline - \$1,855,000
 7221 Skyline Bl - \$553,000
 6666 Sobrante Rd - \$769,000
 28 Starview Dr - \$949,000
 1432 Union St - \$585,000
 5518 Vallejo St - \$690,000
 330 Vernon 202 - \$440,000
 6265 Virgo Rd - \$1,875,000
 9863 Walnut St - \$420,000
 3831 West St - \$420,000
 1025 Wood St - \$475,000
 1845 Woodhaven - \$725,000

PIEDMONT

128 Indian Rd - \$3,980,000
 55 Lincoln Av - \$2,510,000

RICHMOND

601 11th St - \$400,000
 644 17th St - \$399,000
 1000 24th St - \$545,000
 737 30th St - \$555,000
 818 31st St - \$411,000
 851 33rd St - \$543,000
 674 36th St - \$570,000
 654 37th St - \$587,000
 775 6th St 777 - \$400,000
 766 7th St - \$332,000
 860 7th St - \$450,000
 532 8th St - \$440,000
 5405 Ace Ct - \$599,500
 300 Barrett Av - \$499,000
 5029 Barrett Av - \$515,000
 2615 Bayfront Ct - \$467,000
 127 Bayside 374 - \$289,000
 70 Bayside - \$461,500
 1201 Brickyard 406 - \$600,000
 5530 Colusa Av - \$372,500
 5029 Escalon Cr - \$711,000
 5033 Escalon Cr - \$662,000

5037 Escalon Cr - \$727,000
 5041 Escalon Cr - \$671,500
 5045 Escalon Cr - \$726,000
 669 Kern St - \$523,000
 2101 Maine Av - \$390,000
 400 Maine Av - \$620,000
 177 Marina Lks 176 - \$508,000
 2803 Moyers Rd - \$615,000
 6107 Orchard Av - \$527,500
 4600 Overend Av - \$442,000
 2823 Oxford Av - \$629,000
 800 Park Central St - \$515,000
 1400 Pinnacle 103 - \$629,000
 623 Rock Rosa Wy - \$875,000
 3121 Roosevelt Av - \$590,000
 5846 Sacramento Av - \$420,000
 5394 Saddleback Ct - \$735,000
 1526 Santa Clara St - \$610,000
 357 South 36th St - \$409,000
 405 South 49th St - \$325,000
 126 South 9th St - \$355,000
 3689 S. Stoneglen - \$375,000
 5401 Stony Ct - \$618,500
 5416 Tandem Ln - \$782,500
 6020 Tehama Av - \$725,000
 836 Ventura St - \$514,500

SAN LEANDRO

1642 141st Av - \$590,000
 2163 167th Av - \$609,000
 15631 Anchorage - \$749,000
 294 Callan Av - \$600,000
 1400 Carpenter 133 - \$322,000
 15110 Cresby St - \$655,000
 146 Dabner St 148 - \$748,000
 103 Dorchester Av - \$499,000
 444 Elsie Av - \$540,000
 123 Farrelly Dr - \$520,000
 316 Farrelly Dr - \$540,000
 15032 Fleming St - \$600,000
 672 Garside Ct - \$579,000
 824 Glen Dr - \$580,000
 2219 Goldfish Ct - \$650,000
 15252 Hesperian - \$475,000
 14847 Lark St - \$574,000
 747 Matoza - \$775,000
 3457 Monogram - \$680,000
 540 Pershing Dr - \$544,000
 764 Rodney Dr - \$775,000
 661 Victoria Ct - \$749,000
 1007 Warden Av - \$540,000
 300 W. Broadmoor - \$500,000

SAN LORENZO

533 Drew St - \$570,000
 380 Via Coches - \$500,000
 15752 Via Esmond - \$607,000
 1447 Via Lucas - \$638,000
 17621 Wickman Pl - \$389,000
 16179 Yale Av - \$495,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 12
 LOWEST PRICE: \$375,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,389,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$769,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$730,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$425,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$450,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$0
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$437,500

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 19
 LOWEST PRICE: \$225,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,250,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$765,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$731,421

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7
 LOWEST PRICE: \$510,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,200,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$664,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$709,214

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST PRICE: \$259,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$725,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$669,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$524,125

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 7
 LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$625,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$374,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$387,429

KENNINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$615,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$949,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$782,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 112
 LOWEST PRICE: \$125,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,875,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$550,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$648,397

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$2,510,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$3,980,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$3,245,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 48
 LOWEST PRICE: \$289,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$875,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$527,500
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$534,708

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 24
 LOWEST PRICE: \$322,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$775,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$590,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$599,708

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST PRICE: \$389,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$638,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$570,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$533,167

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29 MPG HWY

2006 CRV LX



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 OR PURCHASE FOR ONLY \$19,408

29 MPG HWY

2006 ACCORD EX-L V6 SEDAN



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 36-month closed-end lease. \$2,995 at start of lease. \$0 security deposit required. plus tax. 20 cents per mile charge over 12,000 miles per year. On Approved Super-Preferred Credit. Credit through A.H.F.C.
 OR PURCHASE FOR ONLY \$25,128

25 MPG HWY

2006 ODYSSEY EX



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Plug-in hybrids advocate takes converted Prius to Washington

BY MATT NAUMAN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

SAN JOSE — When Mr. Kramer goes to Washington this week, he'll be driving a modified Toyota Prius that he says gets more than 100 miles per gallon.

In the nation's capital, Felix Kramer, the Redwood City resident and guru of the plug-in hybrid movement, has found an unlikely ally: President Bush.

In a speech in April, Bush endorsed the notion of a plug-in hybrid: "One of the really interesting opportunities available for the American consumer will be the ability to buy a plug-in hybrid vehicle that will be able to drive up to 40 miles on electricity. Seems to make sense to me."

Bush had been scheduled to meet with the chief executives of Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler's Chrysler Group on this week, but that meeting was postponed because the president is scheduled to talk about border issues in Arizona. However, the Big Three's CEOs intend to meet this week with leaders in Congress.

Kramer sees those meetings as an opportunity to put his car, and his grass-roots campaign to persuade automakers to build plug-in hybrid vehicles, before a receptive audience of policy-makers, bureaucrats and media. He flew the car to Washington on Monday.

Kramer founded the nonprofit CalCars: The California Cars Initiative in 2002 after selling a company that provided online services to Web designers and developers. He was a volunteer for many

years, and only became a paid employee in 2005. The group now has three on its payroll. CalCars is supported by foundations, utilities such as Pacific Gas & Electric and other contributors.

The modifications to turn a regular hybrid into a plug-in version are relatively simple, and include a bigger, better battery pack, a bit of software and a short extension cord. The alterations allow the regular Prius, which can run for short distances and at certain speeds solely on electric power, to expand that capacity. When he's driving at 55 mph, Kramer said, 75 percent of the power comes from electricity.

The result? A monitor attached with Velcro to Kramer's dashboard showed he got 101.09 mpg on a recent trip. His cruising range is about 800 miles, a little less than double the normal Prius range. He buys gasoline every three or four weeks "except when I do lots of extra driving."

Kramer made a two-hour presentation about his car, and even gave a few rides, to an audience of about 30 people last week at Acterra, a Palo Alto environmental group.

In a parking lot full of Priuses, Kramer's car stood out, thanks to its "This Plug-In Hybrid Gets 100plus MPG" lettering and PLUG OK vanity plate.

It's the second plug-in Prius for his group. The first was completed in fall 2004. Eleven exist in the world, he said.

He said his car is a means to an end. "Conversions are simply a strategy for us," Kramer said.

"That's not the game. The game is getting the carmakers to do it."

Kramer worked with others in the Bay Area to create his car, and relied on a Monrovia company, Energy CS, for some of the parts. That company has delivered one of its plug-in hybrids to Southern California's South Coast Air Quality Management District for testing.

Energy CS might soon begin selling the conversions under the brand name EDrive.

Kramer said his conversion cost about \$12,000, and future conversions from Energy CS also might cost that amount. A do-it-yourselfer might be able to build a plug-in hybrid using a less sophisticated set-up for about \$3,000, he said.

Kramer also suggests Toyota would be able to add the technology to its existing hybrids for about \$3,000, turning the \$21,000-to-\$27,000 regular Prius into a \$24,000-to-\$30,000 plug-in Prius.

Kramer has found that talking about cleaner cars that produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions and cut the need for imported oil has attracted surprisingly broad support. Many big cities have expressed interest in adding the vehicles to their fleets once they become commercially available.

Political conservatives he describes as "energy security hawks" endorse the idea of using less oil from the Middle East.

Still, the idea of mass commercialization of plug-in hybrids seems far from assured.

Toyota Motor says any Prius owner who converts the car into a plug-in voids the vehicle's warranty.

Automotive Fine Arts Society will exhibit again at Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

ART WRITERS/AUTOMOTIVE WRITERS

CARMEL — The artists of the Automotive Fine Arts Society (AFAS) have been invited to return and captivate the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance audience with an exhibit of their newest works for the 21st consecutive year on Aug. 20. Sponsored by the Lincoln Division of Ford Motor Company, the art show on the 18th fairway of the Lodge at Pebble Beach will include depictions of automotive subjects in a variety of mediums including watercolors, acrylics, oils, wood and various metals. AFAS is comprised of artists whose works are collected by art connoisseurs and auto enthusiasts throughout the world.

"We look forward to the Pebble Beach Concours as it is one of the most important automotive events in the world," AFAS president, Ken Eberts said. "Everyone should enjoy the Pebble Beach Concours experience at least once in their life. The new artwork, breathtaking scenery and spectacular cars on display make for an unforgettable weekend."

Artists scheduled to exhibit their work this year include: Larry Braun, Dennis Brown, Harold Cleworth, James Dietz, Ken Eberts, Art Fitzpatrick, Tom Fritz, Tom Hale, Jack Juratovic, Jay Koka, Charles Maher, John Francis Marsh, William Motta, Niles Nakoaka, Bill Neale, Richard Pietruska, Stanley Rose, Barry Rowe, Toni Sikorski, Craig Warwick, Bruce Wheeler and Nicola Wood.

"At the heart of the Concours d'Elegance is an appreciation for the art of the automobile," says Concours Chairman Sandra Kasky Button. "The Automotive Fine Arts Society

exhibition underscores that focus. The creative works of the artists encourage people to look more closely at the design — the lines and curves, the small jewel-like details and the overall elegance — of the cars on our show floor."

The 2006 Pebble Beach Concours will celebrate the fabulous French marques of Delahaye and Voisin and highlight the elegant Convertible Victoria. The event will also pay special tribute to Cars that Raced in the Forest, which were cars that participated in the early Pebble Beach Road Races.

"The Concours and AFAS have a long history of working together to promote the art of the automobile," added AFAS artist and board member Bill Neale. "We are pleased that Barry Rowe was once again commissioned to create the Concours Tour poster this year and Jay Koka was tapped to develop the art that will grace the cover of the event program and poster. Many of the artists plan to bring pieces that highlight the featured marques and celebrate the Pebble Beach Road Races. Some of those original drivers like Phil Hill and Carroll Shelby, usually also appear at the Concours."

Original artwork and limited edition prints will be available at the Concours, as well as signed copies of the AFAS book that was debuted at the Pebble Beach Concours in 2005. "AFAS: A Celebration of Automotive Art" was published by Automobile Quarterly. It records the history, artists and pieces created by AFAS members.

The Lincoln Division of the Ford Motor Company, which has sponsored the Pebble Beach AFAS ex-

The art show on the 18th fairway of the Lodge at Pebble Beach will include depictions of automotive subjects in a variety of mediums including watercolors, acrylics, oils, wood and various metals.

hibit since 1986, will host the 10th consecutive Lincoln AFAS art gallery held at its time-honored location near the 18th hole near the world's most exclusive golf courses. The Lincoln AFAS exhibition has become a tradition, with celebrities, industry and Concours participants attending the past two decades.

About the Automotive Fine Arts Society

AFAS was established by a group of artists who, knowledgeable by critics among the best in their fields, work in many different mediums including oil, watercolor, acrylics, wood, gouache, ink, clay and metal. AFAS participates in select shows around the country including the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. Information about the gallery is available at www.gallery.com/afas or by Scott Black at 214-520-3030.

European carmakers offer overseas delivery program

BY HERB SHULDINER
MOTOR MATTERS

Every year millions of American fly to Europe and return with mementos of those unforgettable trips. However, a small number of Americans return with a really big souvenir car. Overseas car delivery programs offered by European manufacturers are one of the best-kept secrets in the automobile marketplace.

If you're planning to travel to Europe this year, consider taking advantage of combining it with a new-car purchase that can save you thousands of dollars. It can cost \$1,500 or more to rent a BMW, Mercedes or Volvo for a two-week driving excursion on the continent.

With the attractive packages these companies offer, you can buy a car at a substantial discount and drive your own car, instead of a rental. But you need to plan ahead and order the car you want from a U.S. dealer. The companies say that you need to allow at least six weeks from the time you order a vehicle until you can take delivery overseas.

Ordering a customized car to your specification is not the way most Americans buy cars, but it is very typical of how Europeans acquire their new wheels. A majority of Europeans order cars to be built to their custom specifications and color choices. A surprising number of buyers also elect to pick up their cars at the factories where they're built, instead of going back to the dealer where the car was ordered.

Volvo has one of the best overseas delivery programs. It offers an 8 percent discount off the vehicle's

DOWN THE ROAD

retail price, free or discounted roundtrip airfare and free shipping back to the U.S. from any of 12 drop-off locations in Europe. Volvo dealers here can order the model you choose to be equipped exactly the way you want it. The car will also meet all U.S. safety and emissions standards.

The Volvo program also includes free roundtrip plane tickets for you and a companion. Typically, Volvo delivers these cars at an exclusive facility created for overseas customers. It's located in Gothenburg, Sweden where Volvo has its corporate headquarters, safety center and several plants. Buyers can get a tour of the plant while they wait for the car to be prepped.

There is no delivery fee for cars picked up in Gothenburg. But if you prefer, Volvo will deliver your car in 11 other European cities for an additional fee.

I recently visited the Volvo's Gothenburg delivery center, a cheerfully designed facility that includes a boutique where you can purchase Volvo accessories and clothing. Almost 1,500 U.S. customers picked up their U.S.-purchased Volvos in Europe last year.

Carl-Johan Rasmussen, overseas delivery manager for Volvo, says 64 percent of these buyers spend seven to 20 days in Europe. Five percent purchase optional drive tours and almost a quarter of the buyers purchase trips to London and Spain for a reasonable \$595.

Volvo also offers a driving tour of Germany on the famed Autobahns that have no speed limits. This tour includes three days at the Neuburg Formula 1 track.

Mercedes has sold more than 100,000 vehicles since its European delivery program began more than 40 years ago. It offers purchasers a 7 percent discount on C-Class, E-Class, CLK, CL, SLK, SL, and select S-Class models. You can't get delivery on cars not manufactured in its Sindelfingen, Germany plant, including those built in the U.S.

The Mercedes plant allows you to drop off the car at a dozen places for shipment back to the U.S. with no handling or shipping charges. There are also driving tours and packages available to customers who order their cars in the U.S. and pick them up in Germany.

One of the benefits of the European delivery programs is that the carmakers take care of all the red tape entailed in purchasing a car for overseas delivery. They also provide insurance coverage for a specified period and allow you to buy additional coverage if you want to spend more time driving in Europe at a special rate.

BMW also offers an easy European delivery program for cars bought or leased in the U.S. The German carmaker allows you to drop off a European-delivered BMW at 19 locations on the continent for shipment back to the U.S.

Your local dealers have complete information on the European delivery programs and can help you buy or lease a vehicle to pick up overseas.

SPARE PARTS

MOTOR MATTERS

Pontiac's SUV: The 2006 Torrent is powered by a 2.4-liter V6 engine that produces 185 horsepower and 210 pounds-foot of torque and is linked to a five-speed automatic transmission. With an independent front and rear suspension the Pontiac Torrent is available in either front- or all-wheel drive. This five-passenger vehicle has an unmistakable Pontiac stylish design and an upscale sporty interior with chrome accents. It also features integrated storage areas and innovative cargo storage areas.

Incentives: While automakers spent far less on incentives in April than they did the year before industry analysts say that trend won't last, especially if gas prices continue to rise. Summer is traditionally a good time to buy a vehicle as automakers offer more deals to clear inventory off the lots. The average incentive per vehicle in April fell 13 percent to \$2,468 compared to a year ago. The National Automobile Dealers Association also says it's seeing an increase in dealers offering gas cards or free gas as part of scheduled maintenance.

Source: Associated Press.

Takeover: Toyota Motor Corp. plans to sell about 10.3 million vehicles in 2010, up about 3 million units from 2005, with sales expected to roughly double in Asia and jump 35 percent in North America. If realized, Toyota will replace U.S. giant General Motors Corp. as the world's largest automaker in terms of sales and become the first to sell 10 million vehicles a year. The introduction of additional hybrid vehicles, including the 2007 Camry version, is expected to help lift sales. Source: *The Wall Street Journal*.



MOTOR MATTERS

THE FIVE-PASSENGER 2006 TORRENT has an unmistakable Pontiac stylish design and an upscale sporty interior with chrome accents.

When driving gets bumpy

BY RALPH VARTABEDIAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the universe of auto accidents, there are high-speed crashes and rollovers at one end of the scale. And at the other end, you have the slow-motion bump.

Bumps of anywhere from 0.5 to 3 mph happen with remarkable frequency. Often, there is no visible damage to either car, and then the question becomes: Was it even an accident? Is it worth checking for hidden damage? Should you demand repairs for paint smudges? And how much slack should you cut a total stranger?

A lot of trends have made bumps more of a problem in recent years and are making it more difficult to simply excuse them as part of the normal urban driving experience.

Lease companies often demand that cars be returned in perfect condition, a ridiculous but widespread practice. More and more people are opting for expensive vehicles they cannot really afford and believe they must aggressively protect their investment. And finally many auto manufacturers have developed designs that offer zero protection against major damage to bumpers from very-low-speed accidents.

Many drivers mistakenly assume that when they are driving slowly, they can divert their eyes from the road ahead. Some bumps, for example, occur when a car in front is making a turn and then stops, while the next driver assumes the way has cleared and is looking to the side to make the same turn and then bumps the stopped car in front.

So, bumps result from bumbling human mistakes rather than aggressive speeding or high-risk lane changes or drunk driving. It's the sort of mistake that compels even complete strangers to say, let's just forget it.

The theory is that nobody is per-

fect and even though you may be the bummer today, you may be the bumper tomorrow.

Auto insurers say drivers involved in any bump should exchange insurance information and file claims, even if there is no damage. They advise against offers by the bumper to pay for damage to the bumpee without filing an insurance claim.

"If you don't report it to your insurer, you are not going to have coverage," said Candyse Miller of the Insurance Information Network of California. It may look like there is no damage, but internally there could be damage.

If no damage, injury or claim occurs, it may not make any sense to have an accident put on your driving record. Miller is correct, however, that the appearance of no damage can be deceiving.

It is extremely difficult for ordinary drivers to judge whether a bump is severe enough to cause damage to the energy absorbing system in the bumper, said Ken Zion, an auto body repair expert who runs Automotive Collision Consultants. At one time, federal safety standards aimed to eliminate costly damage from minor bumps.

Before 1982, federal safety standards required cars to have bumpers that could withstand a 5-mph collision and not cause any serious damage to the car's frame or body and only inconsequential damage to the bumper itself. But the Reagan administration established new rules that lowered the standard to 2.5 mph and eliminated the part of the standard that applied to the bumper itself.

So even a 2-mph bump may not damage the frame or body of a new car, but it can cause a lot of damage to the bumper. Bumpers are looking less like bumpers all the time on new cars, instead sporting complex shapes that mould into the

rest of the car. On the Volvo Beetle, for example, the bumper flow almost seamlessly into the fenders.

Typically, automakers use a bumper cover over a steel core. A minor bump can cause the plastic to bounce back, forcing the foam to remain deformed. The rule of thumb in the auto industry is to replace the bumper if it has any deformation, even if it may not be important to the car's structural integrity.

As collision speeds rise, bumper system's plentitude of cans or deformable braces — "stroker" — or cones to absorb energy from the impact they are stroked, then the thumb is that they must be replaced. And finally, a bumper activates the energy absorbing bumper system about 23 hours may also deliver a blow to cause minor but permanent deformation of the body.

Even if there is only minor cosmetic damage, more people want it fixed, said Kelley, who owns three auto shops in Riverside, Calif.

"A lot of people want to bother with it," Feeley said. "If you're in a less vehicle and you don't about damage that they when they turn in the lease companies and it's less wiggle room every day has to come back in the shop shouldn't even call them they should call it a bummer."

And often when someone offers to cover damage to a bumper, they have an assumption about how much repairs will cost. Feeley said people think you can pay for a bumper for \$50 or \$100. "You can't buy an bumper for \$50 in this town," Feeley said.

AFTER AN ACCIDENT

ESURANCE

Shorter days, longer nights and nasty wintry weather all mean that car drivers have to be even more cautious and aware while they're on the road at this time of year.

Unfortunately, accidents do happen. It's worthwhile for all drivers to know what to do in such a situation. In fact, because we're not always thinking so clearly right after an accident, it's a good idea to print out a list of to-do's and save it in your car with your auto insurance information.

Here's what to do in such a situation. Following these tips will make the auto insurance claims process go more smoothly and help get you back on the road faster. (You may even want to print these tips and keep them in your glove compartment should you ever need them.)

■ Make sure everyone's okay. If anyone's injured, immediately call medical help to the scene. (If your injuries are minor, you may still want to have them checked out at a hospital or with your family doctor. Sometimes injuries that appear mi-

nor are really more serious.)

■ Try to remain calm.
■ Do not admit fault to anyone.
■ Seek police involvement. Police officers are trained to handle traffic accidents. They will also determine who's at fault.

■ Allow medical professionals and/or law enforcement officials to control the accident scene.
■ Discuss the accident only with the police and your auto insurance company. During the claims process, if another party to the accident or another auto insurance company contacts you, do not discuss the accident with them and do not agree to make a recorded statement. Simply refer any questions about the accident to your claims representative.

■ With the help of a police officer, gather information from everyone involved in the accident. Obtain names, addresses, phone numbers, and auto insurance information from all parties involved. Also, be sure to get contact information from any witnesses. It's a good idea to store a pen and pad of paper in your vehicle. In the

event of an accident, record the information and insurance company names. Complete your auto insurance more quickly.

■ If you have a camera, you, take photos to document vehicle damage, the location where the accident occurred, marks, and any other relevant to the accident scene. For more information, see our website, www.esurance.com.

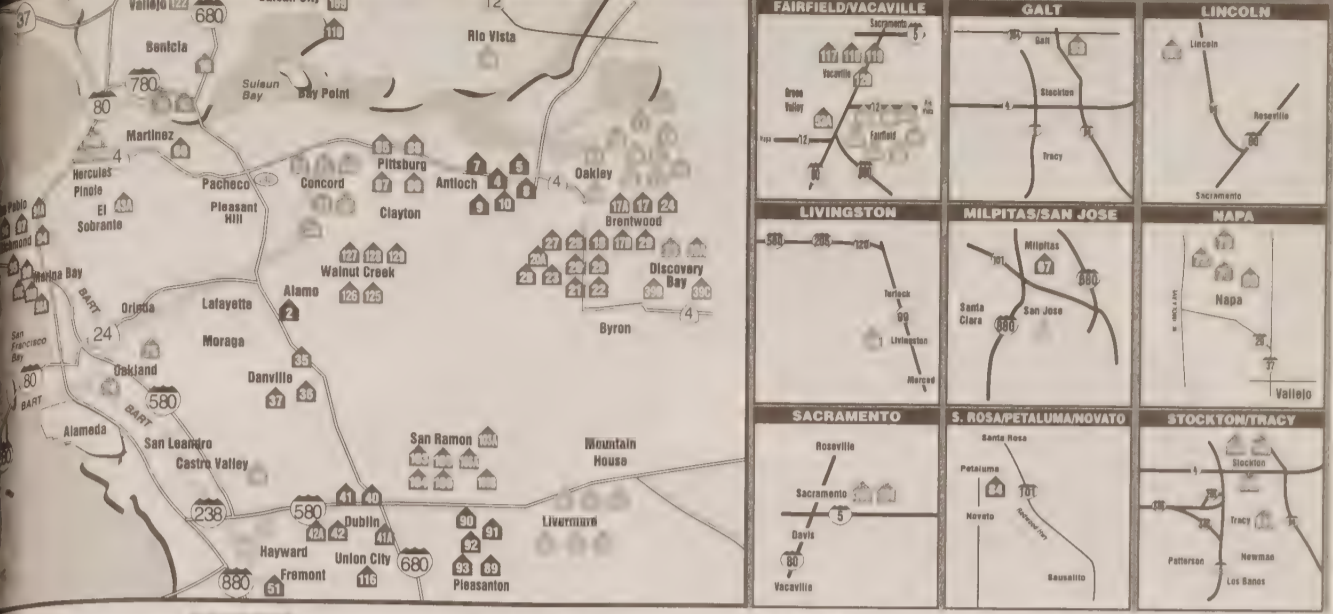
■ Report the incident immediately. Call your insurance company as soon as possible. Do not down your own damages or liability of the accident.

For more information, visit www.esurance.com.

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AN EASY REFERENCE GUIDE TO NEW HOMES



33 TAPESTRY - From the mid \$500,000s. Located near I-680, Hwy 242 & 4 with 3-4 bed plans, approx. 1,478 to 2,128 sq ft w/quality features. Models open daily 10-5. Tues. 1-5. 680/Mountain/Elt. 680 Meadow 925-689-5900. www.denovohomes.com.

34 NEWHAVEN AT LIME RIDGE - From the high \$800,000s. 5 bed/3-bath, 3-4 ba. from approx. 3,219-4,016 sq ft. 4 & 5 bed Gourmet kitchens, private master suites, 3-car garage. Open daily 10-5. Tues. 1-5. 925-609-7200. www.denovohomes.com.

34A LA TERRAZA - From the high \$200,000s. Completely remodeled condominiums with 1 & 2 bed floor plans. Onsite pool & fitness center. Close to everything! Models open daily 11-6. 1505 Kirtland Pass Road. 925-799-0216. www.laterazadcondos.com.

35 DANVILLE

DIABLO HIGHLANDS ESTATES - From the low \$1,000,000s. 5-6 bed, 3.5-4.5 ba. 3,000 to 5,300 sq ft homes on large pool-size lots with hillside vistas. Open daily 11-5, except Tues/Wed/Land. Homes 925-362-0664. www.lenzonhomes.net. Broker coop welcome.

36 LEVANTO & VERNAZZA AT MONTEROSSO - From the mid \$600,000s. Stunning San Ramon Valley homes with six unique floor plans offer 2,464 to 3,212 sq ft. 3 to 4 bed/2.5 to 5.5 ba. and 2- to 3-car garage. Zero-energy home option available. 925-580-1145.

37 WENDT RANCH - From the low \$1,000,000s. Single-family homes with unique architectural styles and a variety of construction options. Up to 7 bed/5 ba. and approx. 2,460 to 4,000 sq ft. Call 925-648-0052. www.shapel.com.

DISCOVERY BAY

38 THE LAKES - From the mid \$500,000s. 1,870 to 4,109 sq ft. Five distinct new gated communities highlighted by a 14-acre man-made lake, basketball & volleyball courts, exercise park walking trails. Open daily 1-800-760-LAKE. www.DiscoverTheLakes.com.

39 RAVENSWOOD DUELS - From the low \$500,000s. Located in the Delta area on Hwy 4 for an easy commute. Ravenswood Duels offers home designs from 1,874 to 1,810 sq ft with 3 & 4 bed, 2.5 ba. Open MF 10-5. Sat/Sun 10-6. 925-516-6548. www.dhron.com.

39B RAVENSWOOD PLACES - From the mid \$500,000s. Discover a water-oriented lifestyle in Discovery Bay. 1- and 2-story homes featuring designs ranging from 2,184 to 2,970 sq ft with 4 to 6 bed/2 to 3 ba. Open MF 10-5. Sat/Sun 10-6. 925-516-6548. www.dhron.com.

39C RAVENSWOOD ESTATES - From the mid \$500,000s. By Hwy 4 for an easy commute. 1- & 2-story luxury homes. 2,466 to 3,566 sq ft w/ 4-7 bed/2 to 3 ba. Mediterranean, Craftsman & Colonial designs. Open MF 10-5. Sat/Sun 10-6. 925-516-6548. www.dhron.com.

DUBLIN

40 SILVERA RANCH - Choose between Estate Homes, Manors and Villa Town Homes, each with multiple floor plans. Located in the peaceful Dublin foothills close to urban amenities. Open Sat & Sun 10-5. 925-511-4937. 8833 Tasajarra Rd. www.primros.com.

41 ROXBURY - From the mid \$700,000s. 2- and 3-story homes with up to 4 bed/3.5 ba. from 1,675 to 2,125 sq ft. Located off of Tasajarra Rd. turn left on Cornwell Lane. Open daily 10-5. 925-829-1333. greenhomedesigns.com.

41A SORRENTO AT DUBLIN RANCH - From the low \$600,000s. Elegant condominiums, townhomes and detached homes with up to 2,861 sq ft. Nearby shopping center, open parks and easy access to BART. Open 11-6 daily. 888-268-2949. TheLakes.com.

42 THE TERRACES AT DUBLIN RANCH VILLAGES - From the low \$500,000s. 1- & 2-3 bed residences, up to 1,540 sq ft. Take Tasajarra Rd. exit north turn on Dublin Blvd. follow signs. Open daily 11-6. 925-478-9811. dublinranchvillages.com. TheLakes.com.

42A ELAH - From the high \$400,000s. Located next to the Dublin BART station. Elan brings the best of urban living to the suburbs. 10 condominium floor plans from 860 to 1,548 sq ft. 1 to 3 bed. www.dhron.com. 888-560-1110 or 925-828-7707.

EL SOBRANTE

43A PEBBLE CREEK - Newly renovated homes from the \$200,000s. The garden community features 1-, 2- & 3-bed homes, private decks, fireplaces, a pool, gym and pool. Sign up for a subscriber-only sneak preview at elsobranetcondos.com. 215-522-5502.

FAIRFIELD

44 PARKVIEW - From the mid \$500,000s. Spacious interior living areas from approx. 2,158 to 2,626 sq ft include luxurious master bed, gourmet kitchens, family rm, fireplace, 9 volume ceilings, & more! Located near I-80 & Hwy 80. 707-446-2824.

44A ESTANCIA AT SOUTHWEST - From the mid \$500,000s. Five floor plans between 2,537 & 4,100 sq ft w/ 2 to 3 bed, 3-car garages, master retreats, gourmet kit., more. At Gold Hill Rd. off Hwy 680 or Red Top Rd. off I-80. www.seenhomes.com. 707-864-8301.

45 ANDALUCIA - From the mid \$500,000s. Marbella features 4 plans approx. 2,205-3,016 sq ft. up to 5 bed/3 ba. Savilla features 4 plans. approx. 2,796-3,940 sq ft. up to 7 bed/5 ba. Located in Rancho Solano. Open Sat/Thurs. 11-5. Fri. 2-5. www.livedandalucia.com.

46 ARIA - From the \$500,000s. Final sales release. Rediscover artistic appeal to homebuilding w/ custom-quality homes with that offer up to 7 bed, 2,800 to 3,565 sq ft, and views of the surrounding natural beauty. 707-864-1565. www.citationnorthem.com.

47 EASTRIDGE HILLS - From the mid \$1,000,000s. Model Now Selling! 3,176 to 4,558 sq ft, up to 5 ba. Gated community with large, view homesites. Open daily 10-5. 707-864-8080. www.HomesByDavidson.com.

48 PARADISE CREST - From the low \$700,000s. Five floor plans ranging from 2,357 to 4,300 sq ft. Amenities include Corian kitchen countertops, phone and cable in all bedrooms, 3-car gar. 707-434-9022. www.seenhomes.com.

50 TURNSTONE - Prices starting from the \$500,000s. 4 furnished homes, 1,710 to 2,170 sq ft of classic architecture. Timeless 3 & 4 bed residences with innovative floor plans & located in the most stunning of settings. www.citationnorthem.com. 800-947-0409.

FREMONT

51 BAYWOOD VILLAGES - From the low \$200,000s. New Phase! Single-family homes, six floor plans, approx. 2,881 to 4,042 sq ft, 4 and 5 bed. Master suites, open daily 10-5. 925-516-8148. 105 Copper Knoll Way. www.meritagehomes.com.

52 SUMMER LAKE - From the \$500,000s. Homes in Marinella and Talaraia, by Shea Homes, range from approx. 2,150 to over 4,300 sq ft. With up to 5 bed and 4.5 ba., plus many extras such as lots and retreats. Visit liveatsummerlake.com.

53 BRIARWOOD - From the \$500,000s. Grand Opening! Located near Hwy 4. Four 1- & 2-story open designs from 2,141 to 3,067 sq ft with 3-6 bed and up to 3 ba. Open MF 10-5. Sat/Sun 10-4. 925-679-3354. www.dhron.com.

54 PARKLANDS - From the \$500,000s. 1- and 2-story, 3-5 bed plans, 1,710 to 2,723 sq ft. In Oakley off Hwy 4 (Main St.) east on Laurel Rd. right at Talon Rd. left at Roseville Cr. left at Zion Ct. Open daily 10-5. 925-625-8851. www.hawkeyehomes.com.

55A EASTRIDGE - Estate Home Sites from the \$600,000s. Gated community in the hills above Green Valley. Custom homes avail from \$2,000,000s. Julie Berg (707) 882-0252 or (707) 761-0159. Open Thurs. Sun. 10-6. Mon. noon-5. www.holmanhomes.com.

56A KEYSTONE - From the low \$500,000s. Five home designs from 2,182 to 3,746 sq ft on a minimum of 10,000 sq ft lots with 3 to 5 bed and 3- to 4-car garages. Tues-Sun. 10-6. Mon. 2-6. Call (209) 745-7600. TheHolmanCompany.com. www.holmanhomes.com.

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62A KEYSTONE - From the low \$500,000s. Five home designs from 2,182 to 3,746 sq ft on a minimum of 10,000 sq ft lots with 3 to 5 bed and 3- to 4-car garages. Tues-Sun. 10-6. Mon. 2-6. Call (209) 745-7600. TheHolmanCompany.com. www.holmanhomes.com.

63A COMPASS POINTE - From the upper \$500,000s. Final chance! Located in the Hayward Hills overlooking the SF Bay Area plans, approx. 2,544 to 2,933 sq ft. Open 10-5. Wed-Sun 10-5. Center/Kelly/Maria St. St. 510-538-9800. www.denovohomes.com.

64A COMPASS POINTE - From the upper \$500,000s. Final chance! Located in the Hayward Hills overlooking the SF Bay Area plans, approx. 2,544 to 2,933 sq ft. Open 10-5. Wed-Sun 10-5. Center/Kelly/Maria St. St. 510-538-9800. www.denovohomes.com.

65A WAVECREST/SEAGATE AT BAYSIDE - 2 neighborhoods From the mid \$500,000s. Seagate 2- to 4-bed units, 1,850 to 3,050 sq ft. From the low \$700,000s. Wavecrest 3- to 4-bed units, 2,198 to 2,682 sq ft. Wm. Lyon Homes. 866-667-3151. www.lyonhomes.com.

65A OCEANA - From the \$600,000s. Four plans to choose from offer up to 4 bed/2.5 ba and range from approx. 1,567 to 1,692 sq ft. Centrally located to I-80, highways 4, 24 and 680. Open daily 10-6. Wed 1-6. 510-789-1383. www.oceanahomes.com.

65B THE TIDES - From the \$650,000s. Four plans to choose from offer up to 4 bed/2.5 ba and range from approx. 1,740 to 2,167 sq ft. Centrally located to I-80, highways 4, 24 and 680. Open daily 10-6. Wed 1-6. 510-789-1383. www.oceanahomes.com.

66A LINCOLN CROSSING - From the low \$200,000s to the high \$500,000s. 18 distinctive new home neighborhoods from America's top builders. 1,842 to 4,500 sq ft. Off Hwy 65 at Fernan Ranch Rd. (888) 552-9484. www.lincolncrossing.net.

67 SCENIC SEVEN HILLS - From the \$800,000s. Energy efficient solar powered homes. 5 bed/3 ba. single family 2-story homes come with floor plans at 2,343 and 2,723 sq ft. Take Vasco Road exit to Scenic Ave. off of 680. Call 925-474-5548 (4663).

68 STATION SQUARE - From the mid \$700,000s. Craftsman-style architecture. Five spacious 2- and 3-bed home designs from approx. 1,145-1,780 sq ft. Visit daily 10-5. Mon 12-5. Broker coop welcome. www.sigspr.com. 925-245-0780.

68 PRIVATE RESERVE - From the low \$1,000,000s. Single-family residences on large home sites bordering scenic vineyards. Spacious floor plans up to approx. 4,176 sq ft. Models open 10-5 daily. Mon 12-5. Broker coop welcome. www.sigspr.com. 925-373-3440.

69 THE CORNERS - From the low \$1,000,000s. Models now open 1- and 2-story homes from 3,224 to 4,119 sq ft. Up to 5 bed/4.5 ba with 3-car garages. 3 fireplaces. Wolf appliances and much more. On Welmore Road between Holmes and Arroyo. Call 925-373-2822.

70 VINSANTO - From the mid \$900,000s. Town & country living. Six 4- & 5-bed designs from 2,750 to 3,750 sq ft. Welcoming porches. Spacious floor plans up to approx. 4,176 sq ft. Models open 10-5 daily. Mon 12-5. Broker coop welcome. www.vinsantohomes.com. 925-373-3440.

71 THE GROVE - From the mid \$700,000s. Open for sale. Single family homes located near downtown. 2,074 to 2,845 sq ft. 4-5 bed, 2-3 ba. Ext 580 on Frst. St. turn right on Frst St. left at N. Mines Rd. left at Sonoma. Open daily 925-245-1782. www.nrbllc.com.

72 SOMERSET - From the \$400,000s. Up to 7 bed/3 ba, 2,038 to 2,993 sq ft. 3-car garages. Stylish, classy, and functional for a exceptional lifestyle. Community park, close-knit neighborhood. Open Thurs. - Mon 10-5. 206-394-9150. www.ychncf.com.

73 VINEHILL - From the low \$500,000s. Five floor plans from 2,111 to 1,871 sq ft. Includes 9 volume ceilings & first floor living areas. Interior laundry rooms, luxurious master bedroom suites. Please call 925-372-5310. www.discovervillages.com.

74 TERRA SERENA - Coming Soon! A variety of attached and single family home designs with flexible floor plans and thousands of design options. Ideally located between I-680, 880, and 257. 888-KB-HOMES, kbhomes.com to join the interest list.

75 NAPA

76 MAYFIELD LANE - From the low \$700,000s. Grand opening! Embrace Napa's wine country living! 3-4 bed, single and two-story plans. approx. 2,003-3,314 sq ft. Open daily 10-5. closed Tues. Hwy 281/Trancas/Jefferson. 707-259-3300. www.denovohomes.com.

77 VINTNER'S RANCH - From the \$900,000s. 3 & 4 bed homes, master suite on main level, Quiet off-the-beat setting, Heart of Napa wine country location. Griffin Lane at Big Ranch Rd. Open Friday-Monday 11-6. 707-253-9542. www.dhron.com.

78 DERBY PARC AT SHEVELAND RANCH - From the \$500,000s. 2 & 3 bed, up to 1,868 sq ft. Single-family residences with 3 unique, distinctive floor plans. Open daily 10-5. 707-257-1633. Castle Companies. www.ShevelandRanch.com.

79 SILVERADO TERRACE - From the mid \$700,000s. 41 single family traditional homes with generous floor plans on comfortably sized off-the-beat lots. 2,003-51,116 sq ft with 3-4 bed. Open 10-5 daily, closed Wed. 707-255-7887. www.O'BrienGroup.com.

80 THE ESTUARY - From the low \$700,000s. 4 designs from 1,247 to 1,993 sq ft w/ 2 or 3 bed, 2-car gar. balconies with waterfront views (per plan). Open Mon 12-5. Tues-Sun 10-5. 510-535-0120. Broker coop welcome. Signature Properties. www.sigspr.com.

81 SHADOW WOODS - From the \$900,000s. Prime hillside lot. 1 bed/2 ba, 2 bed/2 ba condos, private, gated. Clubhouse, lighted tennis court, pool, spa, fitness center. Sun decks, patios. No. 1000. www.shadowwoodshomes.com. 510-535-0952.

82A TANGLEWOOD AT LIVE OAK RANCH - From the \$600,000s. Single-family homes, six floor plans, approx. 2,881 to 4,042 sq ft, 4 and 5 bed. Master suites, open daily 10-5. 925-516-8148. 105 Copper Knoll Way. www.meritagehomes.com.

83 SUMMER LAKE - From the \$500,000s. Homes in Marinella and Talaraia, by Shea Homes, range from approx. 2,150 to over 4,300 sq ft. With up to 5 bed and 4.5 ba., plus many extras such as lots and retreats. Visit liveatsummerlake.com.

84 TRILOGY AT RIO VISTA - From the low \$300,000s. 6 models, 13 floor plans, 1,153 to 2,541 sq ft. Outdoor pools, indoor track, center, fitness facility, Rio Vista golf course. Open daily 9-5. Fri 11-5. 888-257-9229. TrilogyLife.com. 925-679-3354.

85A THE SHORES AT MARINA BAY - From the mid \$300,000s. 6 floor plans w/ 1 & 2-bed, condos with private balcony or patio. 2 pools, fitness center & more. Close to marina. Open 10-5. 866-264-0650. www.HomesAtMarinaBay.com. Sales by Pacific Marketing.

86A THE COVE AT MARINA BAY - From the high \$200,000s. 1 & 2-bed plan condominium homes. Private pools or balcony. Gated with tennis, pools, fitness center & more. Open daily 10-5. 866-264-0650. www.HomesAtMarinaBay.com. Sales by Pacific Marketing.

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88A THE COVE AT MARINA BAY - From the high \$200,000s. 1 & 2-bed plan condominium homes. Private pools or balcony. Gated with tennis, pools, fitness center & more. Open daily 10-5. 866-264-0650. www.HomesAtMarinaBay.com. Sales by Pacific Marketing.

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91A THE COVE AT MARINA BAY - From the high \$200,000s. 1 & 2-bed plan condominium homes. Private pools or balcony. Gated with tennis, pools, fitness center & more. Open daily 10-5. 866-264-0650. www.HomesAtMarinaBay.com. Sales by Pacific Marketing.

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94A THE COVE AT MARINA BAY - From the high \$200,000s. 1 & 2-bed plan condominium homes. Private pools or balcony. Gated with tennis, pools, fitness center & more. Open daily 10-5. 866-264-0650. www.HomesAtMarinaBay.com. Sales by Pacific Marketing.

95A THE COVE AT MARINA BAY - From the high \$200,000s. 1 & 2-bed plan condominium homes. Private pools or balcony. Gated with tennis, pools, fitness center & more. Open daily 10-5. 866-264-0650. www.HomesAtMarinaBay.com. Sales by Pacific Marketing.

RESERVE AT PARKLANDS - From the upper \$500,000s. GRAND OPENING! 3-6 bed, 2,093 to 3,421 sq ft. Large home sites, features considered upgrades anywhere else. Close proximity to the Delta. Models open daily 10-5. 925-625-8932. www.hawkeyehomes.com.

MONARCH RANCH - From the upper \$500,000s. Single family homes ranging from approx. 1,785 - 4,412 sq ft with up to 6 bed/3 ba. These spacious plans offer huge great rooms, gourmet kitchens, and luxurious master bedroom suites. 925-625-4747.

BROOKSTONE - From the low \$500,000s. 3 exquisite designs packed with desirable new home features and amenities. Plans ranging from 3,086 to 3,347 sq ft. Open MF 10-5, Sat/Sun 10-6. 925-679-3336. www.dhron.com.

TEAL COVE AT CYPRESS GROVE - From the mid \$500,000s. 1- and 2-story homes with 1,823 to 3,635 sq ft. Nine floor plans offer 3-6 bed/2.5-4 ba and 2- to 3-car garages. Located in the heart of the Delta. 925-679-8902. or visit www.kbhome.com.

WILDRIDE - From the low \$500,000s. Entry level and move-up home buyers will appreciate the thoughtfully planned and well-appointed home designs ranging from 1,901 to 2,956 sq ft. Open MF 10-5. Sat/Sun 10-6. 925-679-3338. www.dhron.com.

LIVE OAK RANCH - From the \$500,000s. Single family detached homes ranging from approx. 2,000 to 4,000 sq ft. Parks, bocce ball, basketball courts & elementary school across the street. Located at Main & Simon Ranch Road. www.vallejovalleyhomes.com.

PHEASANT MEADOWS - From the upper \$500,000s. 4 plans from 2,302-4,065 sq ft. with up to 7 bed/5.5 ba. Includes gourmet kitchen, luxurious master bedroom suites. Between Carpenter Rd and Ohara Ave. www.discoverybuilders.com. 925-676-1280.

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85 VALENCIA AT SAN MARCO - From the mid \$700,000s. From 2,303 to 3,836 sq ft featuring 3-7 bed/2 to 4 ba. Close proximity to North Concord BART, Bay Point BART and Hwy 4. 925-261-0750. valenciamedia.com. www.dhron.com.

86 HIGHLANDS RANCH - From the low \$500,000s. Bay Area's Best Buy! Single family homes with plans ranging in size between 1,734 & 3,321 sq ft. Features 3-6 bed/2-3 car garages w/ plenty of options. 925-434-9070. www.seenhomes.com.

87 LAKEVIEW CONDOMINIUMS - From the low \$200,000s. 1-3 bed/1-2 ba. Close to BART. Granite counters, garages, full appliance packages including washer/dryer. Open Mon-Fri 10-5, weekends 11-5. 925-252-9330. www.CondoPittsburg.com.

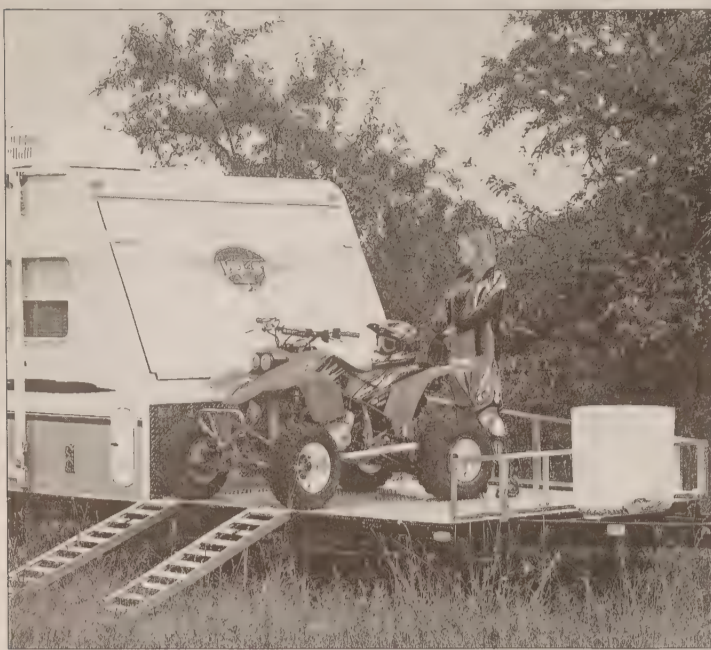
88 STANFORD PLACE - From the mid \$500,000s. Less than one mile from Hwy 4 & near Pittsburg BART. Two-story single family homes with 1,786 to 2,193 sq ft. Three floor plans offer 3 to 5 bed/2 to 3 ba. 925-252-9013. visit www.kbhome.com.

89 MARIPOSA RANCH AT CALLIPPE PRESERVE - From the high \$800,000s. Only 14 home sites avail. Open Fri-Sun 12-5. Exit 601 at North/Castellwood. Go west-bound corner to Happy Valley Rd. then 1 mile. 925-426-3847. www.vistamariposaranch.com.

90 PHEASANT RIDGE - From the mid \$1,000,000s. These 1 & 2-story, 5-6 bed and 4-6 ba luxury residences feature up to 5,328 sq ft. 2,538 to 3,342 sq ft. Open daily 10-5. 925-679-3338. www.dhron.com.

91 BORDEAUX - From the high \$1,000,000s. 17 elegant homes feature up to 6 bed/4.5 ba and range in size from 3,850 to 4,950 sq ft. Open daily 10-5. 925-679-3338. www.dhron.com.

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THE STARCRAFT "DIRT TOY" TravelStar 18SD trailer features a forward garage/deck and sleeps six passengers.



THE DODGE SPRINTER CLASS C motorhome by Winnebago averages 17-19 miles per gallon.

What's new for 2006: Trends and hardware for the new R

BY JEFF JOHNSTON
MOTOR MATTERS

Manufacturing trends, new designs and economic factors all play into what we see ahead for the 2006 Recreational Vehicle season.

Today's fuel prices obviously have an effect on RVs and how people use them. Well-heeled RVers don't need to worry about the cost of fuel, but for the majority of RV enthusiasts, keeping an eye on both their wallets and the pump affects their recreational activities.

To meet the needs of those who plan to tow with smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles, manufacturers are releasing smaller trailers with more desirable features. Motorhome builders are likewise paying heed to fuel economy and trying different packages based on more fuel-efficient chassis.

At the same time, high-end motorhomes aimed at luxury-level buyers are widely available. The market for these top-end rigs seems to grow every year.

ROLLING HOMES

The rage for the "Toy Box," or Sport Utility Recreational Vehicle, is going as strong as ever and shows no sign of slowing down. An SURV is an RV with a garage-type storage area for carrying motorcycles, a dune buggy or other toys inside. These rigs can be a trailer or motorhome-style RV.

Starcraft RV Inc. (www.starcraftRV.com) has combined dirt toy storage with a compact, lightweight hardside trailer in its TravelStar 18SD. This trailer measures a healthy 28 feet long bumper to ball, largely due to the sizable storage deck that's part of the chassis in front of the trailer body, and it's rated at 7,100 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. The deck can handle a couple of quads, for example, or a pack of cargo, firewood and the like.

The compact 18SD trailer body is fitted with foldout tent-enclosed beds up front and at the rear

street-side corner. This allows the trailer to be small and towable, yet it has sleeping space for at least four full-size adults, or six with two on the dinette bed. Full self-containment features are standard for this rig.

The Mega-Lite toy hauler from Extreme RVs LLC (www.extremervs.com) is a toy hauler designed for use behind a half-ton pickup or SUV. The smallest unit, the model 19LT, is rated at 7,650 pounds GVWR. Even fully loaded, that's modest enough to be hauled by many medium capacity vehicles.

Although fairly lightweight, the 19LT includes full self-containment features, an enclosed bath with dry shower, a full kitchen and dual fold-down bunks, plus an overhead RV queen bed. Its swing-down ramp helps ease the loading chore and a roomy cargo area allows for a surprising amount of wheeled cargo.

A Dodge Sprinter van is the basis for the latest Sportsmobile Class B motorhome (www.sportsmobile.com) called the Lopes 55 bike



THE SPORTSMOBILE VAN-CONVERSION motorhome holds up to three dirt bikes.

hauler. This compact rig includes a cargo area at the van's aft end that's big enough to handle three dirt bikes or similar loads. Named for Brian Lopes, a world champion motorcycle racer, the forward part of the coach includes a sleeping bunk and a sofa/bed, a galley and dining area. The coach sleeps up to four and averages more than 20 miles per gallon on the road. That's a decently economical way to travel and take your toys at the same time.

Winnebago Industries (www.WinnebagoInd.com) turned a lot of heads with its Dodge Sprinter-based Winnebago View and its cousin, the Itasca Navion. These 23-foot-long units are fully featured Class C motorhomes that are said to achieve as much as 17-19 mpg, yet they deliver comfortable, if space-efficient, living and camping fun. They're also easy to drive, which can be important for those intimidated by larger rigs.

At the much larger and considerably costlier end of the motorhome SURV scale is the new Grand Sport Columbia toy hauler

from Dynamax (www.dynamax.com). This foot rig is based on a truck cab and chassis that includes a 12-foot garage with a powered liftgate, this high-end luxury Mercedes diesel engine, 10,000 pounds-foot of torque is left off this rig's list of optional features.

Small to large, all the things goes, the upcoming season offers something for every budget.



THE DYNAMAX GRAND SPORT Columbia is full-on ultra-luxury RV living.

The Odyssey deserves its spot on top-10 list

BY MATT NAUMAN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Asian automakers have made tremendous inroads into the truck and sport-utility segments once controlled by the domestics.

Their share of light-truck segments — pickups, sport-utilities and minivans — grew to 27.8 percent in 2005, up from 18.5 percent in 2000.

Nissan sold 87,000 of its full-size Titans last year. Honda's Ridgeline, its first pickup, was selected as 2005 truck of the year by North American auto writers. And Toyota brings out an all-new and much-feared Tundra truck from a new plant in Texas later this year.

Toyota had five trucks, vans and SUVs that sold more than 100,000 units in 2005, while Honda had three. South Korea's Hyundai and Kia reported big increases in sales of the Tucson and Sportage SUVs.

Yet, despite the growth, only one Asian-maker truck cracked the top 10 list of best-selling light trucks in 2005: The Honda Odyssey.

Why? Well, it's a great minivan, perfect for families on the go and those who need tons of room for people and cargo.

It's also a perfect example of how designers and engineers — and electronics and ergonomics — have vastly improved the function and appeal of today's cars and trucks.

The Odyssey, after all:

■ Has three power doors — one on each side and one in the rear. All

can be opened and closed with the key fob or by using buttons inside the vehicle.

■ Beeps if you get too close to a curb or a wall in a parking garage and has pedals that move up to reach shorter drivers.

■ Comes with software that improves gas mileage by deactivating engine cylinders when they're not needed.

■ When sold in Touring grade, includes everything from a voice-operated navigation system and leather seats to a DVD player for the kids and a sunroof for the grown-ups.

Consider that the Odyssey also features seating for seven under-floor second-row storage and third-row seats that fold right into the floor with the pull of a strap, and it's hard to imagine minivan owners wanting more.

Only a high price keeps the Odyssey as the No. 2 van behind the Dodge Caravan. The base LX model sells for \$25,345, while our tested Touring model had a window sticker of \$38,795. A destination charge added another \$550.

Honda first used the Odyssey name on a vanlike vehicle back in 1995, but it was the 1999 version that established the Odyssey as a minivan contender. The 2005 redesign added features and brought the Odyssey into minivan leadership.

All 2006 Odyssey vans come with a 3.5-liter V6 that's rated at 244 horsepower. (Changes in horse-



THE 2006 HONDA ODYSSEY TOURING adds intelligence to the valve timing and includes technology to deactivate cylinders, or what Honda calls variable cylinder management.

power measurements dropped that from 255 in 2005.) It's a very responsive engine and does quite a nice job of moving this very heavy (up to 4,655 pounds) machine. The EX-L and Touring models add intelligence to the valve timing and include technology to deactivate unnecessary cylinders, or what Honda calls variable cylinder management. That's enough to boost fuel economy to 20 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway. (Without it, the LX and EX versions get just 19/25.)

On the safety side of the equation, the Odyssey comes with front, side and side-curtain air bags plus a rollover sensor. Anti-lock brakes get both brake assist and electronic brake distribution for better stopping power. Honda's Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) program is standard throughout the lineup.

On the road, the Odyssey offered a comfortable, compliant ride. Only on some rough back roads near Lodi, and over some deep potholes, could the Odyssey have used a bit more softening in its suspension.

On that trip to the Central Valley,

my family found the number of drink holders (17) and storage slots very appealing. As traffic crawled, the kids watched a video while my wife and I listened to satellite radio.

The Odyssey's navigation system now even comes with Zagat restaurant ratings, so you can search by location, type of cuisine and quality.

Built in Lincoln, Ala., as well as at Honda's Canadian plant in Ontario, the Odyssey gets minor packaging changes for 2006. DVD entertainment and navigation are separate options now, and the EX-L adds a

leather-trimmed steering wheel, shift knob. It remains an efficient minivan, and the government's www.safercar.gov Web site.

Honda had its most record sales year in 2005, reaching its all-time high sales as it sold its most

And just this week, it was named as the best all vans by *Vincent* magazine. The cost of depreciation is based on the vehicle's depreciation to market value.

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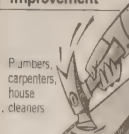
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Employment

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35667-54416

A civil service exam is being conducted for industrial Supervisor, Prison Industries (Mattress and Bedding). Position exists at San Quentin State Prison ONLY. Must have at least 2 yrs. of production exp. in a mattress and bedding enterprise and trade. EXCELLENT BENEFITS: pd vac, hol, safety retirement, med & dent. Submit a State app to PIA 560 East Natoma, St. Folson, CA 95630-2200. Apps may be obtained at a local EDO office or on PIA's website: www.pia.ca.gov. App must be postmarked no later than 6/8/06. For more info, call sopia@piacalifornia.com (916) 358-2696.

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HAIR Stylist, Manicurist Other Great Industries, 925-787-2103

HAIR Stylist, Manicurist Other Great Industries, 925-787-2103

HANDYMAN FT/PT

Experienced 325-354R. 925-438-0381, Larry

HANDYPERSON

Install restroom fixtures. Must own rel. car/have cln. DMV. \$12/hr. +bnfts. gas card. Fax res 925-462-1032 JeffM59@yahoo.com

HAIRWOOD FLOOR INSTALLER/SANDER, FT.

Must have at least 2 yrs. exp. 925-383-6596.

HEALTHCARE Drug Counselors, Asst.

Trngt. Min 2 yrs exp. Bilingual Pref'd. FT/PT Fax Resume to WRT: 925-796-3389

HEALTHCARE-PT

Cook-Pis. apply @ 130 Tamlico, Walnut Crk

Employment

HEALTHCARE REHAB DIRECTOR

Physical Therapist Antioch, California

EXP. REQUIRED. MAK-ING IT A GOOD STEP FOR A STAFF FR. Come join this excit-ing rehab team, great therapy equipment, acute inpatient program & computerized documentation sys-tem. The RD will manage a team of therapists & develop therapy programs. Consonus Rehab Serv-ices offers excellent comp & benefits & much more. For more information about our company, visit our website at: www.consonushealth.com or contact Lee Whitlock at 800.881.7875 or email: whitlock@consonus.com

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Employment

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HILTON CONCORD is currently seeking: Restaurant Bartender, Banquet Server, Host/Hostess, Guest Service Agent, Laundry Attendant, Dishwasher, Bellman, Front Office Supvr., Banquet Bartender

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Hilton Concord, 1970 Diamond Blvd. Fax Res to 925-825-8713. Applications will be accepted M-F, 10a-12noon. For more info call 925-827-2000 ask for the job

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HOTEL

W.C. MARRIOTT • Controlle • Guest Svc. Agent • Night Auditor • Bellman • PM Restaurant Sup. Apply Tue-Thu at 2150 N. Main St., WC or Fax res. 925-927-1156

HOUSEKEEPER

Atria Montego Heights, an assisted living community, is looking for a FT housekeeper and a FT Janitor to join our team. Candidates must have good communication skills, able to work a weekend day and sometimes holidays. Exp. with seniors is a plus. Please apply in person at 1400 Montego, Walnut Crk.

HOUSEKEEPING Team

to clean vacant units Lorens 415-850-4876 Must be lic. & insured

HUMAN RESOURCES Director

Solano Community College District. \$90,613-\$116,053/yr. plus excellent fringe benefits. Hrg. Exp. Visit <http://www.solano.edu>, Call (707) 864-7129 for announcement and required application information, or send E-mail: HR@solano.edu Closes 5/22/06. EOE

Employment

Human Resources Manager

MCR ManorCare, the proven leader in patient outcomes and one of Fortune 500's Most Admired Companies, is seeking an exp. human resources prof. to oversee all aspects of human resources at our Tice Valley facility in Walnut Creek. Resp. incl: recruiting, bnfts, safety/worker's comp/trng/updating staff on policies and procedures, & monitoring systems. Prior HR exp. req. long-term care exp. also helpful. Send resume & cover letter to: HCR ManorCare Attn: HR Director Fax 925.937.1628 Apply online at www.hcr-manorcare.com EEO/Drug-Free Employer

HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST

Solano Community College District. \$91,946-\$93,277/yr. plus excellent fringe benefits. package. Provide public contact, employee services and database/computer records management for central HR department. Visit www.solano.edu for application information, or call (707) 864-7129. Closes 6/12/06. EOE

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Seas is now hiring tech for the upcoming busy season. \$30+ per hr. & eligi-bility for commissions, must have Type I & II and 2 yrs. exp. For more info email: abair02@seashc.com Apply in person at: 990 Detroit Ave, Concord. Seas is an EEO/AA employer.

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ManorCare Health Services™ NURSE MANAGER/ADON

HCR ManorCare, the leader in skilled nursing and rehabilitation care is seeking an Asst. Director of Nursing for our Walnut Creek facility. Monitor resident care, assist in training and scheduling nursing staff & care planning. Assist in developing nursing procedures & supervise professional nursing staff to ensure quality care. Must be able to relate to residents, families & staff, and must possess good overall organizational, management & verbal skills. Must be a licensed RN with at least 2 years supervisory experience.

We offer excellent compensation with a full benefit package, including 401(K).

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- Controlle
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- Bellman
- PM Restaurant Sup.

Apply Tue-Thu at 2150 N. Main St., WC or Fax res. 925-927-1156

HOUSEKEEPER

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HOUSEKEEPING Team

to clean vacant units Lorens 415-850-4876 Must be lic. & insured

HUMAN RESOURCES Director

Solano Community College District. \$90,613-\$116,053/yr. plus excellent fringe benefits. Hrg. Exp. Visit <http://www.solano.edu>, Call (707) 864-7129 for announcement and required application information, or send E-mail: HR@solano.edu Closes 5/22/06. EOE

Compassionate Care



Courtyards at Pine Creek is a family oriented, tri-level community offering assisted living, dementia care services and independent apartments.

If you are a compassionate, caring individual who enjoys working in a collaborative work environment, we invite you to join us.

- Director of Maintenance
- Maintenance Assistant/Janitor
- Dementia Care Supervisor
- Activity Assistant/Driver
- Receptionist (Part-Time)
- Caregivers (All Shifts)

Both positions require knowledge of general building repairs, electrical, plumbing and painting.

Monitor the health & wellness of our dementia residents & provide quality activity/recreation programs. Requires experience with dementia & staffing/supervision.

Assist in quality interactive activity & recreation program for our residents. Senior activities or related experience required.

Must possess good organizational and time management skills.

Requires excellent organizational and good English communication skills.

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Courtyards offers a very competitive compensation package. For immediate consideration: Fax resumes to: 925.798.0773. You may also apply in person: 1081 Mohr Lane, Concord.

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Employment

WESTERN NURSING COLLEGE
Teaching exp not req. P/T & flex hours avail in San Leandro. Must have current RN or LVN CA license and BA/BS + 2 yrs exp or AS/AA + 6 yrs exp. Clinical exp must be in last 5 yrs. Email resume: westerncollege@aol.com fax 925-276-3653

WESTERN NURSING COLLEGE
Teaching exp not req. P/T & flex hours avail in Antioch. Must have current RN or LVN CA license and BA/BS + 2 yrs exp or AS/AA + 6 yrs exp. Email resume: westerncollege@aol.com fax 925-276-3653

NURSING-RN-MDS
Coord. w/exp. 24-32 hrs/wk do best SNF in Danville w/ 3-4 Medica care adm. exp. Contact: HoppeClark925942053

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Employment

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OPTIONAL exp. nec.
ASD preferred. Fax: (707) 938-1554. woodyecenter@attolab.net

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Production Supervisor
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Adm. exp. req. 1225 Rosemar Pkwy, W.C. CA 94595 Phone: 925-937-5000 Fax: 925-937-1628

RECEPTIONIST
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RECEPTIONIST: Hyv.
phones, Concord, CA 94506. 925-691-4782 Web id CC06091847785

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RECEPTIONIST
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P/T. Needed for busy co. In con. \$6.75 + bonus. Avail. to work all shifts. casual atmos. phere. Ph. 925-677-0900

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RECEPTIONIST-FT
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RECEPTIONIST
Full-time position. Basic sales and customer service skills required. Exp. with Excel and Quickbooks is preferred. Fax 925-692-0004

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Employment

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RECEPTIONIST
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RECRUITER
Top retail recruiting firm in Danville seeks high energy, self-motivated. No recruiting exp nec. will train. Ex-cal. commission structure & work environ. Call Sam 925-232-1661 Web id CC04231821661

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RESTAURANT/Coffee
Drive Thru Coffee Bars are looking for high energy, self-motivated players to join are team at Treat Blvd & Concord Ave. Locations: Call Bob @ 925-263-3209 or 925-997-6048 cell

RESTAURANT
Cook positions avail @ RCJL assisted living facility in Danville. Must be avail. Eves & Wknds. fluent in English. \$12.00/hr. 4000 Tues. & Wed. betw. 5:00-8:00. Please schedule intvw. or fax res. to 925-648-2801 attn: Dining Services

RESTAURANT COOKS
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RESTAURANT
Exp. Food Servers & Bartenders. Pen Vets. Muldoons, a large Brentwood restaurant. Apply in person at 8900 Brentwood Blvd. 925-820-6969

RESTAURANT Fmt Help
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RESTAURANT
San Ramon line cooks, pantry, dishwashers, waiters, & servers. exp'd. 925-820-6969

RESTAURANT/Waitress
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women's shop W.C. No nites 925-843-7330

RETAIL: Montclair
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RETAIL Stock Clerk
Lafayette Party Store. F/T/PT 58-S11. DOE Fax res 925-887-6855

Employment

RETAIL
COPELAND SPORTS
RETAIL SPORTS ASST. MANAGER
Copeland Sports, the west coast's premier specialty sporting goods retailer, is seeking a highly motivated ASST. MGR for our El Cerrito store @ 300 El Cerrito Plaza. Must thrive in a fast-paced, fun-filled, sporting environment, & have exp. & a proven track record of success in retail sales & store/people mgmt. Apply to: bogtzmer@copeand.com; fax: 510-527-7880; online @ www.copeand.com; or in person @ the store.

RETAIL SALES
High end outdoor turn store is looking for highly motivated sales person. \$35-40k/yr + bnf. 40 hrs/wk. Wkends are a must. Retail exp. pref'd but not req. Apply to: 2085 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon

RETAIL STONE MANGER
Hospice Thrift Stores seeks a proven leader to oversee day-to-day operations at our Antioch store. Needs exc. interpersonal comm. orp. & multi-tasking skills. Retender and/or thrift shop exp. helpful. Able to lift 50 lbs. & work weekends. Email resume to: staffing@hospicecc.org or fax 925-887-5671, (925)

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Research - Field Interviewer

INTERVIEW PEOPLE FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED STUDY

RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE, a research firm in North Carolina, is seeking field interviewers to interview randomly selected household residents in Berkeley, Contra Costa County, California areas. The study will start in June and continue through the end of December 2009.

- Evening and Weekend hours
- Average 20 to 25 hours per week with a possibility of up to 40 hours per week
- Paid training (7-8 days)
- Pay range, based on experience, starting at \$14.00*
- Dependable transportation required, mileage reimbursed at .445
- No solicitation involved, although skills gained from previous sales work is helpful
- Household Interviewing and/or computer experience preferred but not necessary
- Bilingual English/Spanish helpful but not required

To express an interest, call toll free 1-877-419-1767 and be prepared to enter the following 6 digit code: 213872

All interviewers will be employed by Headway Corporate Staffing Services, under subcontract to RTI. Headway Corporate Staffing Services is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Round Table PIZZA

AWESOME OPPTY FOR CAREER GROWTH!

RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT

Come see the awesome opportunities for Career Growth and Promotion being delivered at Round Table Pizza in Contra Costa and Solano Counties!

GENERAL MANAGERS

Strong Customer Service and P&L. Able to train and lead by example to make sure we are every family's first choice for a wonderful meal together.

MANAGERS in TRAINING

(Fast Track) 2-5 yrs Exp in High Volume Rest. Mgmt. Rapid Advancement and career opportunities.

ASSISTANT MANAGERS

1-4 yrs Mgmt Exp. Great Management and Leadership training program.

SHIFT SUPERVISORS

Great entry Level Management Position. Full Mgmt training. 6-12 mos. Supervisor Exp Nec.

Benefits include:

- * Employee Stock Ownership Plan
- * Full Health Pkg. (inc. Vision)
- * Paid Holidays * 401K * 2 Wks. Vac. Bonus, Fun and the best pizza on earth

Local Opportunities available in the Diablo Valley, Hwy 4 Corridor and Alameda County areas.

If you are customer service focused, motivated by challenges and financial gain, come see what awesome opportunities for career growth and promotion are being delivered at RTP.

For immediate consideration, email your resume to: careers@roundtablepizza.com www.roundtablepizza.com

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careerbuilder®

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Employment

SALES/Customer Svc.
PART-TIME WORK
\$17.70 base/avg.
Ideal for students/retail
ages 18+, flex sched.
no exp. nec. hrs/wk.
conditions apply.
CALL 925-214-2524

SALES: Food Prod.
Travel req. no. ca.
\$55K up. Fax resume
707-432-2230
Web ID CC051185775

SALES

General Mgr.

Distributech, division of Consumer Source and the largest distributor of free consumer directories, seeks a Gen. Sales Mgr. for our East Bay office in Dublin. We offer competitive comp. & bts. pkg. and much more! Responsibilities include: heavy sales, overall mgmt. of daily ops., managing distribution, maintaining customer relationships, and reporting. Priv. outside sales & mgmt. experience a must! College preferred. Qualified candidates submit resume w/salary history to: tciauer@distributech.net or fax 914-338-3788. EOE

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THE WEEKLY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • THE MONTICLARIO
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Newspaper Subscription Sales Reps

Work part time afternoons, evenings or weekends. Earn \$50.00 to \$250.00 a week or more. We need friendly, neat, energetic people to hand out samples and get new customers for the West County Times. Students and others welcome; transportation available in some areas. Richmond-Hercules-San Pablo-Pinole-Rodeo

Call Max @
XELACO MEDIA
510-262-2769

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IS AN INDEPENDENT
SALES CONTRACTOR
FOR THE WEST COUNTY TIMES

STANISLAUS FOOD PRODUCTS

The country's most respected leader in "Packed From Fresh Tomatoes Not From Concentrate", has an immediate opening in the East Bay Area. We have been selling the finest processed tomato products to restaurants throughout the United States for over 60 years and are looking for a Sales Account Manager to join our team.

The chosen candidate will conduct sales calls on foodservice accounts in the Bay Area in an effort to sell our product line. This position is primarily devoted to generate new business.

Qualified candidates will have at least 3-5 years experience calling on food service establishments such as restaurants, hotels and catering businesses. Experience selling in the Pizza Industry a big plus. Former food distributor background is very helpful. Bilingual a plus. Upbeat, can-do attitude is a must.

Compensation package will include a base salary, lucrative monthly commission plan, company car, home office, expense account and an outstanding benefits program. Very positive company culture and work environment.

If you desire to join a Company with long established and growing loyal customer base, please send your resume to:

P.O. Box #3951, Modesto, CA 95352
Or fax resume to (209) 548-3478.

If you are looking for a
JOB...
Good Luck.
If you are looking for a
CAREER...
Let's Talk!

Sears Home Improvement Products, a national leader in vinyl siding, custom windows and doors, kitchen remodeling, cabinet refacing and heating and cooling products is looking for Sales Representatives. Top performers in this region earned an average of \$149,000*

- **COMPENSATION:**
Six-figure income potential!
- **LEADS:**
Company provided, qualified and pre-sell
- **TRAINING:**
Cutting-edge, professionally designed sales training!
- **BENEFITS:**
401(k), Medical/Dental insurance, etc!
- **INCENTIVES:**
We operate an incentive & reward based environment!
- **GROWTH:**
All managers are promoted from within. Due to growth plan, there are many opportunities!

Sears

For immediate consideration, please contact/
send your resume to Bill Hatch at:
Ph: 925-245-2000, Fax: 925-245-2018 or
email: whatch@searsroebuck.com and indicate
"SHIP Resume Submission" in the subject line.

*Based on regional average for top 10 Sales Representatives with at least 1 year of service. M/F/D/V. EOE.
We utilize drug testing & criminal background checks as a condition of employment.

Employment

SALES ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT

The Contra Costa Times seeks sales consultants to sell advertising space in multiple product lines. We have positions in Walnut Creek (Online), Sales Creek (Retail), Pleasanton (Retail), Richmond (Retail), Alameda (Classified), and Alameda (Classified). Top candidates will have the ability to develop and secure new business in a competitive selling environment. Using consultative selling techniques, these sales people will work with existing businesses to grow revenues and market share to benefit the client. Must be detail and time oriented and possess excellent communication skills. Ability to work within deadlines is essential. Computer and internet knowledge required. Outside sales experience highly preferred.

We offer a comprehensive benefits package including 401k plan. If interested, please submit a resume to: ContraCostaTimes@ccn.com or fax 925-214-2524. Web ID CC051185775

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SALES INSIDE: Customer Sales Rep. for mfr. rep. in electronics industry. Candidate will have excellent interpersonal and computer skills. Ability to interpret technical documents. Send resume to: matt@ccn.com Web ID CC051185775

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SALES INSIDE:
Deeductive plumbing showroom. Salary & bts. Willing to train. 925-925-2400

SALES INSIDE:
Seeking a new opportunity to advance your sales career? Our team members are excellent at quickly developing rapport and a conversational style with individual clients. If you're a sales professional with a proven track record, we'd like to hear from you. Please send your resume to: jobs@ccn.com

CCN
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EOE

SALES: The Traubman Co., a prominent retail dealer/owner/Manager, has immediate openings available for Specialty Leasing Rep. at our Sun Valley, CA. Responses, incl. resume, to: ccn@traubman.com Web ID CC051185775

SALES: Top ADT dealer looking for 5 sales reps to make \$400 per deal. Call Jay 925-685-9325. Web ID CC051185775

SALES - USED CAR \$\$\$
Nationwide Auction needs bilingual sales rep. with separate adv. budget. Progressive pay plan full benefits. 925-707-7512

SALES: Outside Sales Representative. Entry-level position if you are ambitious, career motivated, love selling. We will provide you with a salary commensurate with experience, high residual sales, bonuses, no salary cap, allowance for car and gas, medical, & 401k.

WORTH USA
We are a 60-year-old multi-billion dollar sales leader in automotive supply products. Please submit resume to our website www.worthusa.com career center. EOE.

SALES: Retail Off. Furn. Conc. P/T. 925-689-5550

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Employment

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Pfizer, Inc. discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets leading prescription medicines for humans and animals and many of the world's best-known consumer brands. We have an immediate and opportunity for top performing sales representatives to join our winning team. Responsibilities include: responsible for selling prescription products to physicians, hospitals and pharmacies.

Candidates should have proven sales experience, a four-year college degree and an ability to work in a competitive environment. In addition, candidates must be able to learn sales information quickly and be willing to travel.

Pfizer, Inc. offers compensation and benefits. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. In working for the sales force that we value, you will be able to learn sales information quickly and be willing to travel.

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The Auto Section

Boats WELLCRAFT 2000 Walk-around, 22' Cutty Cab. Loaded w/100 engine, 75hp Honda trolling motor. \$27,000/obo 925-534-4444 Boat Rentals & Charters GLASTRON Penta V-6 \$11,000.00, open clean, 17.5 ft 925-570-3925 Campers & Shells ARE Util. shell, Ford Ranger/Mazda shrt bd. Sold Sold Sold	Campers & Shells LANCE 11-3', Loaded Covered, Onan gen., \$11,000 925-625-9076 VACATIONER Cheyenne 11'4" king size bed, Cedar closets, elec. jacks, Like new inside. \$4000 obo. 925-945-0564 The BIGGEST Job Board In The East Bay careerbuilder.com	Motorhomes RV • Airstream • Dutchstar • Goodwin • Tradewinds • Jayco • Komfort MANITICA TRAILER & CAMPER (209) 239-1267 Place A Classified Ad Anytime Go to ContraCostaTimes.com	Motorhomes Alpine Recreation NEW & USED! • Diesel Pusher • Trailer • Class "A" • 5th Wheel • Class "C" • Fifth Wheel • 1000 sq. ft. • 1000 sq. ft. alpinerv.com 1-800-792-8223 In Print & Online Anytime ContraCostaTimes.com	Motorhomes *B&L RV* Bay Area's Largest Pre-Owned RV Dealer. Best Prices in the Area. Class A (gas & diesel pushers), Class C's, Trav. Trailers, 5th Wheels, Toy Haulers. Parts & Serv. Avail. ***** Trades Welcome We Buy RVs, Cash Paid, Financing Avail. San Pablo Dam Rd. & I-80 510-223-7778 www.BandLRV.com Open 7 Days A Week 2001 32' BOUNDER Class A, Excel, cond. \$60,000/obo 925.753.5882	Motorhomes CHEVROLET 1992 COACHMAN 20 ft 30K mi. \$35,000 SOLD CONSIGNMENTS WANTED Call Dennis Russo (209)481-5408 Dan Gamel's Modesto RV Center '82 FORD FLEETWOOD 24', 29K, Loaded, Xintl \$19K/obo 925-634-7165	Motorhomes 2000 JOURNEY 36' 68K Sacrifice for health \$77,000. 925-798-7926 KING of the Road, 2002, \$31,200.00. 925-366-9225 89 LAZYDAZE 22' gen. \$8.9K 925-684-9454	Motorhomes 26' 1978 Motorhome \$7900. SOLD REXHALL 1996 Airstream 32' widebody, 36K mi. \$75K. 925-768-2661 RIALTA 2001 21ft. V6 Gen. very easy to drive. 18 MPG. \$31,900/obo 873-7176 WINNEBAGO 2004 JOURNEY 36' 2 slides, Diesel 5m. Down + Take over Payments 925-829-1475 ALJO 1999 Skyline 25 ft., slide out, xint cond \$9,700 925-932-0286	Travel Trailers COACHMAN 1984 Midlump, 30' sleeps 6, Runs Grt. Awning w/ screenroom, Nice interior, Must Sell Fast. Sacrifice, \$3500/obo 925-565-8925 COLEMAN '02 Bayside Deluxe pop-up, slide-out, 10' x 11' 6" x 11' 6" \$9800/obo. 925-405-4611 2001 Dutchman alter light expandable slp 7, 99,500. 925-427-3116 2000 Dutchman Supreme, 5th whl, 30' slider, super clean \$11K/obo 925-727-9366 1995 30' EXPANDABLE trlr, firm sac. sale \$6000. 510-799-2236
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STARLIGHT SILVER

V-6 ENGINE

COMPUTE MONTHLY PAYMENTS

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The Auto Section

[illegible]

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Spring Sales Event

HANLEES NISSAN

2006 NISSAN SENTRA 1.8Ss

Automatic

PW, PL, A/C, AM/FM/CD & More
MSRP \$16,815
HANLEES DISC. -\$1,927
SALE PRICE \$14,888
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,250
COLLEGE GRAD REBATE** -\$500



NET COST TO YOU \$12,138

2 At This Price #515707, #525448 Model #42216

2006 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5Ss

Automatic

PW, PL, A/C, AM/FM/CD & More
MSRP \$20,995
HANLEES DISC. -\$2,157
SALE PRICE \$18,838
FACTORY REBATE -\$1,750
COLLEGE GRAD REBATE** -\$500



NET COST TO YOU \$16,588

2 At This Price #182241, #182848 Model #05216

2006 NISSAN MAXIMAS

PW, PL, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM, CD, Alloys & More



\$24,388

2 At This Price #850736, 840696 Model #08216 **AFTER \$1,500 FACTORY REBATE**

2006 NISSAN FRONTIERS

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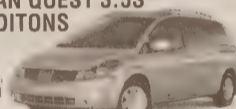


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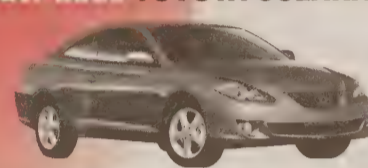


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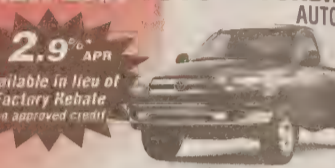
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More special than a sack o' salad

BY CECE SULLIVAN
THE SEATTLE TIMES

There are lots of ways to make a salad.

You can make a quick stop at the neighborhood supermarket, fill a plastic container with all sorts of chopped veggies and greens, grab a fork and be on your way.

Or you can tear open one of those prepared salad mixes, dump it in a bowl and toss in the contents of the enclosed package of dressing. There you are. Feed your face.

Today's salads are for those who — guess what? — like to cook. You know, actually take the time to shell peas and snap asparagus spears. And to wash a few vegetables. And dry them, too! Yes, I'm asking you to stand in a kitchen longer than five minutes. To whisk a vinaigrette instead of opening a bottle of Newman's Own. To make something special.

Can't take it?

That's OK. Because what I'm offering here is a kind of mix-and-match approach to salads. Yes, you'll find those packaged salad mixes that you can toss with a simple homemade dressing. And maybe toss in a few extras such as quickly cooked asparagus or strips of jarred roasted bell peppers. And that's fine.

When you find the time, though — say, on a weekend — you may want to choose to roast some baby artichokes or beets. To shell those peas that smell of spring grass. To whip a bit of walnut oil into soft goat cheese. You'll find the results are worth the time. It's time spent making something just a bit finer, and pretty special.

ARTICHOKES, TWO WAYS

1/2 lemon
Pan-Fried Artichokes:
3 globe artichokes
1 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

Roasted Artichokes:
16 baby artichokes
2 medium cloves garlic, lightly crushed but not peeled
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
1/2 teaspoon salt
Fresh ground black pepper

To prepare artichokes for both preparations: Fill a large bowl with cold water and squeeze the lemon half into it. Working with one artichoke at a time, cut stems of artichokes flush with base. Snap off the tough, outer artichoke leaves until the light yellow inner core is reached. Cut off the pointed tips and use a paring knife to remove dark green leaf bases around the heart. Cut in half and remove the fuzzy choke with a paring knife. Rinse with cold water, then drop into the bowl of lemon-water. Repeat with remaining artichokes.

To make Pan-Fried Artichokes: Cut artichokes lengthwise into thin

slices and drop back into the lemon-water. When all of the artichokes have been prepared, drain well and pat dry with paper towels. Heat a large, heavy nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add oil and heat. Add artichokes and reduce heat to medium. Cook about 10 minutes, turning occasionally, until chokes are browned, crispy and tender. Remove from heat and set aside. Once cooled, the artichokes can be refrigerated 24 hours.

To make Roasted Artichokes: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Drain the artichokes well, then place cut-side down on paper towels for a few minutes. Spread on a rimmed baking sheet, add garlic and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with thyme, salt and pepper; toss with a wide spatula. Roast artichokes 10 minutes, toss and continue roasting 8 to 10 minutes or until very tender. Remove from heat and set aside. (The artichokes can be refrigerated 24 hours. Set the garlic aside for the Lemon Vinaigrette.) Makes 4 side-dish salads.

LEMON VINAIGRETTE

2 roasted cloves garlic (reserved from Roasted Artichokes) or 1 medium clove garlic, pressed
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
Squeeze the garlic from its skins into a bowl. Add lemon juice, balsamic vinegar, salt and a few grinds black pepper. Slowly whisk in olive oil to make an emulsified vinaigrette. Cover and refrigerate up to 1 week. Let come to room temperature before serving. Makes 4 servings.

From 'Artisanal Cooking: A Chef Shares His Passion for Handcrafting Great Meals at Home' by Terrance Brennan and Andrew Friedman.

ARTICHOKE SALAD WITH LEMON VINAIGRETTE

Roasted Artichokes
2 jarred roasted red peppers, rinsed
3 cups stemmed arugula leaves
3 cups stemmed mixed baby or spring greens
1/3 cup ricotta cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
Lemon Vinaigrette
1 medium tomato, seeded and diced
1 tablespoon toasted pine nuts
1/4 cup shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano

Make Roasted Artichokes and set aside.

Cut red peppers into thin strips and refrigerate until ready to use. Prepare arugula and other greens. Put into a bowl, cover with a paper towel and refrigerate. Mix ricotta cheese with a little salt and pepper; refrigerate.

When ready to serve, dress the greens with some of the Lemon Vinaigrette and divide between 4 dinner plates. Top with the roasted artichokes, then surround with peppers and tomato. Sprinkle with pine nuts and shaved Parmesan. Spoon ricotta on top, drizzle with a little more dressing and serve.

Makes 4 servings.
Simplified salad: Toss roasted peppers and 4 cups greens with a little vinaigrette. Shave some Parmesan over the top. Serves 2.

Adapted from 'Artisanal Cooking: A Chef Shares His Passion for Handcrafting Great Meals at Home' by Terrance Brennan and Andrew Friedman.

SPRING VEGETABLE SALAD WITH HERB VINAIGRETTE AND PARMESAN LACE

Parmesan Lace:
Baker's parchment paper
1/2 cup finely grated fresh Parmigiano-Reggiano
1 pound English peas (in pod)
1 pound asparagus
1 cup Herbed Vinaigrette
1 tablespoon finely minced chives
2 teaspoons finely minced fresh dill weed
2 tablespoons finely sliced fresh basil leaves
4 cups stemmed spring lettuce mix

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare Parmesan Lace by lining a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread Parmesan into a rough 7-by-4-inch rectangle and bake on center rack until lightly golden, about 5 minutes. Remove from oven and transfer parchment to a cooling rack.

Prepare a bowl of ice water. Shell the peas and measure a generous 1 cup. Snap ends from asparagus spears and cut into 2-inch pieces. Bring a pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add peas and time 1 minute. Transfer with a strainer to the ice water. When cooled transfer to a paper-towel-lined plate.

Add asparagus to the boiling water and time 1 1/2 minutes. Transfer with a strainer to the ice water. When chilled, transfer to a paper-towel-lined plate. When vegetables have dried a bit, combine in a bowl, cover

and refrigerate up to 24 hours.

Prepare Pan-Fried Artichokes and set aside. Cover and refrigerate if not using right away. Prepare Herbed Vinaigrette and set aside; refrigerate if not using within an hour. Combine chives, dill, basil and spring lettuce mix in a bowl. Cover with a paper towel and refrigerate up to 2 hours.

Toss greens with a little vinaigrette and divide among plates. Toss asparagus and peas with some vinaigrette and spoon on top of the greens. Top with artichokes and some of the Parmesan Lace. Drizzle with a little vinaigrette and serve.

Makes 4 servings.
Simplified Salad: Combine herbs with salad mix and toss with a little vinaigrette and a few defrosted frozen peas. Use a vegetable peeler to remove a few paper-thin slices from a wedge of Parmesan, sprinkle over the salad and serve. Four cups of dressed greens will serve two.

Adapted from 'Artisanal Cooking: A Chef Shares His Passion for Handcrafting Great Meals at Home' by Terrance Brennan and Andrew Friedman.

HERBED VINAIGRETTE

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
4 tablespoons sherry vinegar
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
1 tablespoon minced fresh dill
2 teaspoons minced fresh chives
1 to 2 tablespoons water
Whisk together mustard, vinegar, salt and pepper. Slowly whisk in olive oil to create a smooth emulsion. Stir in basil, dill and chives. If the vinaigrette seems too thick, whisk in a tablespoon or so of water.

Makes about 1 1/2 cups.
Kitchen Notes: This vinaigrette is a good, basic dressing that can be paired with any tossed salad. It will hold in the refrigerator up to two weeks.

From 'Artisanal Cooking: A Chef Shares His Passion for Handcrafting Great Meals at Home' by Terrance Brennan and Andrew Friedman.

BEEF SALAD WITH GOAT CHEESE MOUSSE AND WALNUT VINAIGRETTE

1 1/2 pounds beets, rinsed and scrubbed
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1/4 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
4 ounces fresh goat cheese, softened at room temperature
1 tablespoon walnut oil
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper



SPRING VEGETABLE SALAD with herb vinaigrette and parmesan lace.

to taste
2 medium Belgian endive
3 1/2 cups lightly packed stemmed arugula leaves
Walnut Vinaigrette

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Put the beets on a large piece of aluminum foil and drizzle olive oil over each. Wrap up the sides of the aluminum foil to create a bundle. Place on a cookie sheet and roast until a thin-bladed knife pierces easily into the center of each beet, 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Spread walnuts in a small baking dish; put into oven with beets and bake 6 minutes. Transfer to a small bowl and set aside.

Combine goat cheese, walnut oil, salt and a little black pepper. Use a wooden spoon to stir vigorously until the cheese is whipped to a mouselike consistency. Cover and refrigerate. (The mousse should be served at room temperature. It can be refrigerated 24 hours, but remove 1 hour before serving.)

When the beets are tender, remove from the oven and cool. Remove the skins with a paring knife and cut into 3/4-inch dice. The beets can be prepared 24 hours ahead. Put into a plastic container, cover and refrigerate.

When ready to serve, spoon about half of the Walnut Vinaigrette over the beets and toss well. Put the endive and arugula in a bowl and toss with enough dressing to lightly

coat. Divide among four plates and top with beets. Sprinkle with goat cheese on top.

Makes 4 servings.
Simplified salad: Slice beets, slice thinly and roast 10 minutes in some of the Vinaigrette. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts.

From 'Artisanal Cooking: A Chef Shares His Passion for Handcrafting Great Meals at Home' by Terrance Brennan and Andrew Friedman.

WALNUT VINAIGRETTE

2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
1 tablespoon finely minced red wine vinegar

1/4 cup walnut oil
1 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 to 3/4 teaspoon black pepper
Freshly ground black pepper

Put vinegar and oil in a mixing bowl. Slowly whisk in salt and grinds of pepper. Taste more salt if necessary.

Makes about 3/4 cup.
Note: The vinaigrette should be refrigerated 24 hours. Remove from refrigerator 1 hour before serving.

From 'Artisanal Cooking: A Chef Shares His Passion for Handcrafting Great Meals at Home' by Terrance Brennan and Andrew Friedman.

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Interior decorating 101

Another change of seasons is upon us. As the first daffodil buds and welcome signs of spring, let them serve as a reminder that it is time to revitalize your living space. Before uttering a collective "oh, no," don't worry. Home redecorating projects don't have to be major facelifts like new flooring or furniture. They can be as simple as utilizing a color palette and working with the accessories you already own.

If you were to hire an interior decorator, the first thing they would tell you to do to achieve high impact change is switch out your accessories room by room. A good place to start is in the room that gets shown off the most — the living room. Clear off the mantle for a fresh clean look, and replace the clutter with a vase filled with colorful fresh-cut or silk flowers.

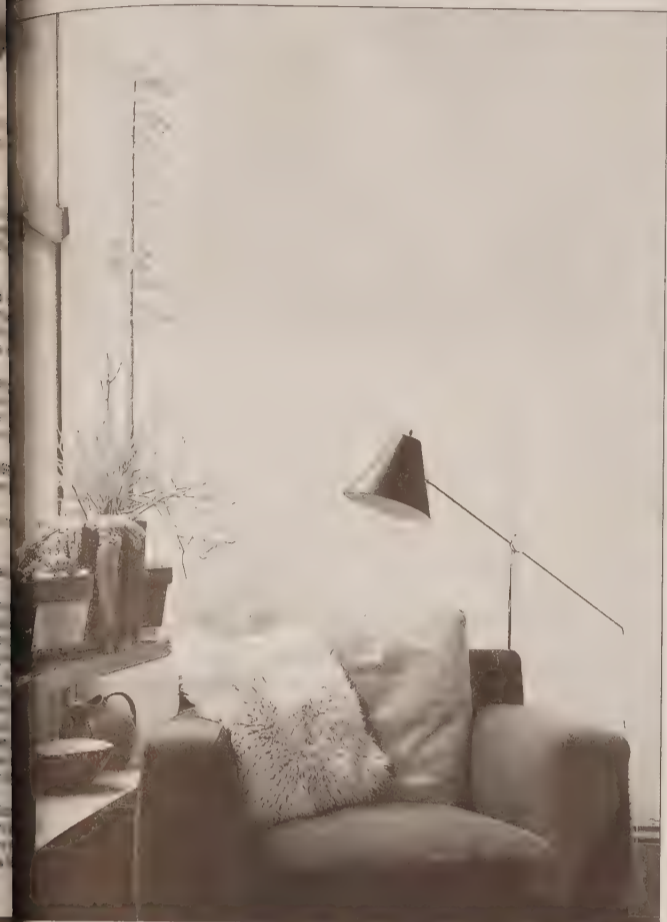
If you have a dark-colored couch, buy a new throw to toss over it that "screams spring." Look for something that has one or more of the colors that are in for the season. Bright, brilliant reds, golds and red-oranges complemented with

warm, rich brown-based neutrals are going to be hot in 2006.

To make sure your new color scheme is a winner, use a color wheel, available from most hardware stores. Complimentary colors are found opposite each other, while dominant and accent colors appear side-by-side on the wheel. It's a great tool that will help ensure your success.

Perhaps the most important change you can make will be one that's so obvious, most people would never think of it on their own. Why not switch out the pictures on your walls with new images and mat colors to enliven your space. Your living room can go from drab to fab easily.

Most people have family photo



HERE'S A ROOM WITH NOTHING on the walls, left. The best way to describe it is "boring." Hanging framed art in a room, above, can really dress it up.

tos hanging in the living room. Move those to the hall or a family room and replace them with art work that really makes a bold, color statement.

"Some important trends in the art world this spring include anything that is Asian-inspired, framed maps and charts, vintage giclee prints, tapestries, canvas transfers and hand-colored prints," said Linda Crisolo, director of merchandising for Art.com, a Web site featuring more than 300,000 pieces of original art, prints, posters and photographs.

Want to see what an image that appeals to you will look like in

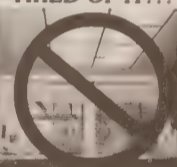
your room before you buy it? After you've selected an item on www.art.com, click "see it framed" and a new window will open up. Then the fun begins.

You can choose the approximate color of your wall, and play with different frames and mats. You can automatically see how your finished image will look custom-framed, mounted or laminated — even what it would look like when transferred to canvas.

"This system takes the guess work out of choosing something perfect for your home," said Crisolo. Ready to redecorate? Log on to www.art.com and get started.

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Create a soothing sanctuary in the privacy of your bathroom

If you weren't busy running errands after the kids or staying at work, where would you go to a deserted island? A cruise? About your bathroom? That's right — your bathroom. As more homeowners are increasingly creating spa-like retreats in their homes as an escape from the busy world — when they really can't get away from it — the bathroom has become one of the most popular rooms in the house to renovate. If you are one of the many homeowners looking to create a bathroom suite that reflects your personality — while also providing a relaxing, pampering escape — then there are a few things you should keep in mind.

The first step in any renovation is to decide on a budget, according to Angie Coffman, director of Delta product marketing, Delta Faucet Company. "Once you have the current situation. Ask yourself what you are looking for in a bathroom suite as opposed to what you have. Decide if you are looking for a few small changes to your fixtures, or if you want to entirely transform your bathroom into a complete renovation." If you decide what's staying and what's going, you should determine the style that fits your room. Since the average lifecycle of a bathroom is about seven years, you may make sense to choose a timeless style as opposed to a trendy or ultra-modern. A timeless motif will remain fashionable for years to come and not be considered outdated, while a trendy style can change small details of the décor, such as accessories, without having to make major alterations to the look of the room.

Be sure you take precise measurements of the space. If you are in a small bathroom setting, adding more mirrors and lighting to the area to make it appear larger and more open. Consider the layout of your current bathroom and consider what you want and what you'd like to change. According to Coffman, there are a few questions you should ask yourself. Is the showerhead at a comfortable height and does it pro-

vide adequate pressure and water coverage? Is the bathtub big enough? Do the fixtures look good and are they easy to clean? Are there enough towel bars? Do you have well-organized storage space? Keep all of this in mind while shopping around for your new bathroom fixtures and accessories.

Designer looks for less

Now that you are ready to design your new bathroom, consider visiting a showroom to find what you are looking for. About 10 to 12 percent of all faucets today are bought in showrooms. Although once thought of as only offering expensive brands, designer products are now available at more attainable costs.

"The trend toward a designer look has made its way to the kitchen and bath," says Coffman. "Many homeowners are increasingly turning to showrooms to find superior products that are well within their budget."

This attainable style is available through companies like Delta Faucet Company, which recently teamed up with world-renowned architect and designer Michael Graves to create a complete collection of bath faucets and accessories. The Michael Graves Collection is an example of a new generation of products that meet the demand for superior performance packaged in great-looking designs. The new collection brings

style and versatility to the bath at an affordable price.

Relax at home

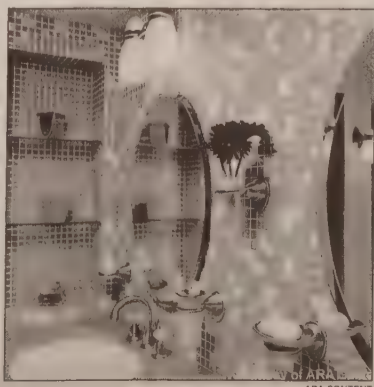
It is important to pay close attention to detail as you commit to your new bathroom décor. As your life becomes busier and more stressful, you may want to create a spa-like environment in your own bathroom. You wouldn't be alone; there's been a significant increase in the demand for custom shower systems, relaxing Roman tubs, seating in the shower and handheld showers. This trend gives a new meaning to the word "rest room."

Customize your space

Today, you have many options when choosing products and accessories that fit your lifestyle. Personalizing your lighting and accessory options is a great way to add a special touch of your style to your suite. Some collections now include whimsical items like votive holders and bud vases. Simple things like adding dim lights around your bathtub can give off a serene, indulgent feeling and provide an environment for relaxation.

Finally, the most important thing to remember once you begin construction on your new bath suite: having work done on your house may seem like an unbearably stressful process, but when it's done, you will be able to relax in your new bathroom sanctuary.

THE BATHROOM has become one of the most popular rooms in the home to renovate.



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BY KATIE MENZER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

James Bias doesn't regret the small fortune he paid in veterinary bills to help his dog Sandy.

But the president of the SPCA of Texas, where every adopted animal is given a free month of pet insurance, does lament that he hadn't followed his own organization's lead.

"Here we provide it, and I didn't even have it myself," says Bias, who now has Sandy enrolled in a pet insurance plan. "It's a lesson learned."

Pet insurance is gaining popularity nationwide, spurred by rising veterinary costs, more advertising and pet owners' growing tendency to treat their pets like family members, according to Packaged Facts, a consumer data-gathering group.

Revenue for the U.S. pet insurance business hit \$160 million last year, up 25 percent from the year before. But only 2 percent of North American pet owners had signed up for the insurance in 2005, the group says.

So should you join the small-but-growing pack?

Start with your needs

Pet health plans vary widely depending on benefits and the animal's species, breed and age. The restrictions are complicated and often similar to limits that apply to human health insurance, such as pre-existing conditions or advanced cancer treatments.

A basic plan covering general maladies can start at \$15 a month for a dog and \$10 for a cat. If you want your plan to help pay for flea protection or offer a reward if your pet is lost, expect to pay about \$70 or more.

Be sure to read the fine print and sign up only with an established company, says Texas veterinarian Joe King.

"It's something that I think they should look into and see if it fits their way of thinking," King says.

Purebred pets, for example, are at higher risk for genetic diseases and problems. The hip dysplasia that plagues some German Shepherds, or Persian cats and their polycystic kidney disease, can cost thousands to treat.

But any pet may have an accident or develop a disease.

Evaluate the costs

An average owner with a healthy, medium-to-large dog should expect to pay \$25,000 in food, vaccinations and pet-related expenses over the

lifetime of the animal, says Jim Wilson, a Pennsylvania vet and lawyer who crunched data from several animal-care associations to determine the true cost of pet ownership.

The number jumps to \$35,000 if the dog develops diabetes or another chronic problem.

That's why Wilson recommends pet insurance. He operated his vet practice for 16 years before becoming a consultant for veterinarians needing business and legal advice.

"When owners with pet insurance would come in to my practice, we didn't talk about money. We talked about what that pet needed," he says.

But the pet owner's fiscal philosophy is also a factor. If you have enough in the bank to cover an unexpected vet bill, then it might not be worth buying insurance your pet may never need.

Prepare for the worst

But if you're the type who'll do anything for your pet and you're short on cash, it might be worth it.

According to the results of a veterinarian survey published in 2003 in the trade journal DVM News-magazine, most pet owners will stop treatment if the medical bill exceeds \$961.

Since the SPCA began offering the free insurance in 2002 through Petfinder.com, 30,000 adopted pets have been insured and \$88,000 in claims paid out.

Bias says they never discovered what was wrong with Sandy when she became ill as a puppy and needed round-the-clock hospital care costing \$1,500, but she's healthy now.

Although he hasn't filed any claims since he signed her up for insurance, he says that's the point.

"You prepare for the worst but always hope for the best."

Which plan is right for you?

Research the insurance companies and their offerings before picking a plan. Be sure to read the fine print. Plans often have exclusions, and premiums can change based on the species of your pet, breed, age and geographic location, among other factors.

Here is some general information about plans offered by three of the nation's largest pet insurance companies. These plans are for dogs, but each company offers programs for other types of animals, too.



JAMES BIAS, PRESIDENT OF THE SPCA OF TEXAS, hangs out with his golden retriever, Sandy, at his office in Dallas, Texas, April 2006. Bias enrolled Sandy in a pet insurance plan.

Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI)

www.petinsurance.com

VPI Standard Plan

Helps pay for diagnostic tests, prescriptions, treatments, hospitalization, office visits, X-rays, lab fees and surgeries

■ Deductible: \$50
■ Coverage: Up to \$2,500 per accident

■ Maximum benefit: \$9,000 per year

VPI Superior Plan

Helps pay for diagnostic tests, prescriptions, treatments, hospitalization, office visits, X-rays, lab fees and surgeries

■ Deductible: \$50
■ Coverage: Up to \$4,500 per accident or illness

■ Maximum benefit: \$14,000 per year

Petcare pet insurance programs

www.petcareinsurance.com

Quickcare Gold

Helps pay for unlimited number of accidents and 6,000 illnesses

■ Deductible: \$75 or \$50, de-

pending on level of plan

■ Coverage: Depending on level of plan, 70 percent of veterinary care fees or coverage of up to \$3,000 per accident or illness category

■ Maximum lifetime illness coverage of \$36,000
■ Monthly premium: Starts at about \$23

Quickcare Preferred

Helps pay for all accidents and illnesses

■ Deductible: \$100
■ Coverage: 70 percent of veterinary care fees

■ Maximum benefit: Up to \$5,000 per accident or illness category

Petshealth Care Plan

www.petshealthplan.com

Basic Pet Insurance Plan

Helps pay for illnesses, accidents, spaying or neutering, hospitalization, X-rays and surgery

■ Deductible: \$100 annually
■ Coverage: 80 percent of allowable charges

■ Maximum benefit: \$8,000 per

year

■ Monthly premium: Starts about \$15

Best Pet Insurance Plan

Helps pay for illnesses, accidents, spaying or neutering, hospitalization, X-rays, surgery, standard vaccinations, annual physical exams and continuing treatments for some chronic conditions

■ Deductible: \$100 annually
■ Coverage: 80 percent of allowable fees

■ Maximum benefit: \$13,000 per year

■ Monthly premium: Starts at \$71

When you need the vet

Here are the top 10 reasons pet owners took their ailing dogs and cats to the vet in 2004, according to claims filed with Veterinary Pet Insurance Co.

Dogs

1. Ear infections
2. Skin allergies
3. Stomach upsets
4. Benign tumors
5. Bladder infections
6. Skin infections
7. Sprains
8. Eye infections
9. Colitis
10. Skin lacerations

Cats

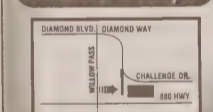
1. Urinary tract infection
2. Stomach upsets
3. Respiratory infections
4. Ear infections
5. Skin allergies
6. Eye infections
7. Wound infections
8. Colitis
9. Gum disease
10. Kidney disease

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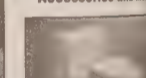


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Ask? The Expert

Painting your home's exterior? Follow these basic guidelines

BY NICK HARDER
OF THE RAINY COUNTY REGISTER

It's the best time of year to paint the exterior of your home. It's not too cold and there's no rain.

When you do the whole job, you do just small touch-ups or just the home's exterior painted professionals. It helps to understand the steps it takes to paint.

Painting can be broken down into three phases: preparing the surface, painting, and cleaning. Of the two, preparing can be more critical and time-consuming.

With the huge effort it takes to paint a large home, the prep work of preparing the surface is what puts home owners the most from doing the work. However, if a prep is done correctly, the paint won't stick properly, and as long and won't promote the surface areas.

Most home exterior owners over existing paint, that approach.

Painting you need to do any loose paint, areas paint has worn through the surface, or surface dents. For this work you need one putty knife, preferably in different blade widths. Use these to patch dents, cracks, and to re-seal caulking joints.

Scraping tool. Make sure you have a handle with a length so that you won't scrape your brush with a sturdy brush.

Handpaper in varying degrees of coarseness.

Electric hand sander (optional, masonry or stucco filler, and a caulking gun. Get quality gun. The cheap ones won't work well and will drive you crazy.

Stripping chemical (optional).

For a one-story house, you only need a stepladder. For a two-story house, ladder safety depends on the ladder resting on a home's surroundings is not level. In that case, if you have a two-story house — you may need a ladder.

Ladder that is rated to support weight you'll place on it. The weight of the ladder hold is listed on its side. Really large job, you may consider using a paint bucket as rollers and sprayers are used more for touch-ups, but they can also be used on either type of

area usually calls for covering the other area while the sprayer is being used. That will require more time spent on covering the surfaces as well as money spent for the coverings themselves. You should consider these factors to determine whether it's worth your effort.

When it comes to paintbrushes, there are lots of choices in size, quality and shape. Some brushes are designed for particular areas or tasks, such as painting trim. Before you buy, make a list of what types of painting you'll be doing. Take that with you when you buy brushes to make sure you get the right ones.

One question frequently asked is: "Why should I pay \$20 for one paintbrush when another that looks exactly like it goes for \$3?"

The answer is twofold: A top-quality paintbrush will do a better job, and it will make the job go easier and quicker, especially for an amateur painter.

Higher-priced brushes typically have a tapered end. There are shorter bristles on the outside, longer ones in the center. This tapering of bristles gives the painter more control of the brush and leaves fewer or no brush marks.

If you have ever used a cheap paintbrush, you know that it often will leave marks and even bristles as you paint. A top-quality brush will rarely do this.

Better brushes also hold more paint. You'll spend less time getting paint from the can to the surface.

Paintbrushes come with a variety of bristle types. Natural bristles frequently come from Chinese boars. Most fall into three categories: black, white and oxbow.

Use a brush with natural bristles if you're painting with an oil or alkyd paint, stain, varnish, shellac or lacquer. However, if you use a latex paint, don't use a brush with natural bristles. Instead use synthetic brushes, which come in dyed nylon, dyed black nylon and dyed nylon/polyester. The nylon/polyester type is usually considered the best because it has good stiffness and retention. Finally, many professional painters prefer brushes with wooden handles, saying they feel more comfortable in grip and balance.

Other paint tools you'll likely need include:

- Drop cloths. These come in materials such as canvas or nylon. Canvas costs a bit more, but paint will dry faster on a canvas surface and won't puddle as it will on nylon.
- Rollers of different sizes. Get the kind that has a handle with a threaded interior, which lets you screw it onto an extension pole to reach high areas. For roller covers, have a variety of naps such as a 3/16-inch or 3/8-inch for painting smooth indoor surfaces, and 3/4-inch and 1-1/4-inch for rough surfaces. Again, go for quality and you

will get smoother results, and the cover will hold more paint, reducing the amount of times you need to dip it back into the pan.

- Paint roller pans. The better ones are of a more solid material — a heavier plastic or thicker metal — and are less likely to bend and spill.
- Foam paint pads in different sizes to reach into corners and do edging. They tend not to drip or spatter, and speed up the trim work.
- A painter's mitt for such things as pipes and railings. You dip the mitt in paint, then surround the pipe or railing and smooth the paint on it.
- An extension pole for hard-to-reach higher areas. These poles come in several lengths, so figure what length you'll need before purchasing. The shorter a pole, the easier it is to handle.
- Masking tape. Use this to keep paint off adjacent surfaces, such as glass next to window frames. A wider tape makes slop-over less likely. Some of the professional painter-quality masking tape is easier to work with and remove.

Be sure to make a list of the exact items you'll need or a list of the types of things you plan to paint before you leave home. That will help the salesperson at the paint store or home center assist you in picking the right tools.

Resources

One of the best sources of information on painting, inside or out, is the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute. Even the pros recommend this comprehensive Web site, which offers extensive advice on paint, materials, preparation and even choosing colors and calculating how much paint you need. Just click on www.paintquality.com.

Spraying paint

Paint sprayers can be a tremendous help, but matching the right one to the type of work you'll do is essential.

Paint sprayers are great for handling large areas or uneven surfaces. Sprayers range in price from under \$100 to more than \$1,500 and come in two types: airless and air-powered. Airless sprayers are powered by electricity. Air-powered sprayers require a compressor.

Airless sprayers are most often used by do-it-yourselfers. The parts of an electric airless sprayer include a container for the paint, a motor, high-pressure pump, pressure regulator, housing and handle.

There are a number of types of airless sprayers, but the ones you might consider best for house painting include the cup gun, piston pump and diaphragm pump.

A cup gun type is usually the least expensive, often priced around \$100. Another plus is that it can accommodate relatively thick latex paints and much thin-



MIKE CARDEW/ACKRON BEACON JOURNAL

ner stains. This is the type of sprayer that is used most often by do-it-yourselfers.

Disadvantages include a relative lack of power compared with other types of airless sprayers and air-powered models. A cup gun sprayer also may not be able to handle the thickest paints.

While the cup gun sprayer may not be best for large exterior paint jobs, it may be appropriate for smaller jobs. It holds a limited amount of paint because of the size of the cup.

The diaphragm pump is the next step up. It uses a diaphragm expanding and contracting to bring in and force out the paint. It will handle fairly thick paints but sometimes tends to overspray because of its power. Good for large jobs. You can buy a good one starting around \$250.

The piston pump variety is the most powerful and costs the most — sometimes \$1,000 or more — but should easily handle the thickest paints. Again, as its name denotes, a piston forces out the paint.

Professionals use a sprayer gun powered by an air compressor. The sprayer costs \$100-\$300 or more. A hose to carry the paint from the can to the sprayer costs around \$125. Compressors cost \$150 to more than \$1,000. (Compressors can be used for a variety of other purposes and with many other air-powered tools.)

These systems are designed for major painting work, but they are not without drawbacks. The air-powered sprayer gun can't spray thick paint, and there's often a lot of overspray. You have to be skilled at using the tool to be efficient.

With both air-powered and airless sprayers, you will need to buy tips. Your sprayer may come with a tip, or you may buy one separately. Adjustable tips are best, accommodating wide and narrow spray choices.

If you buy a separate tip, you should know what the numbers

mean on it.

The first digit indicates half the width of the spray measured from 12 inches between the tip and the object being sprayed.

The rest of the number indicates the size of the opening in thousands of an inch.

So, the number 810 on a tip would tell you that the tip would spray a 16-inch-wide swath when held 12 inches away. The opening is 10 thousandths of an inch wide.

The size of the opening makes it possible for you to judge whether the sprayer can handle certain types of solutions. Information that comes with the sprayer may indicate it can handle thin or thick paints, stains or enamels in just those words, but it also may indicate the size of the opening that would work best for each one.

Usually, for example, the smaller openings — say, .009-.013 — can

easily handle stains, water sealers and lacquers. Openings at the larger end of the scale — say, .015-.019 — may be best for exterior latex paints.

So, after all this, which sprayer should you buy?

This depends on the paint projects you might tackle and what you want to spend.

Keep in mind something else as well. Most do-it-yourselfers who use sprayers frequently don't clean them properly. There's a tendency to try to do a lot at one time, then set the sprayer down while you take a break. Or maybe you didn't clean it thoroughly after the last big job. The next time you try to use it, the tip or other parts are clogged, and you give up on the device.

If you're the type who cleans tools properly afterward and follows guides on thickness of paint to use, a good-quality sprayer is worth the investment.

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By Nancy DuPont, Owner, Castle Rock Arabians

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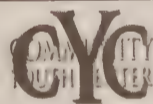


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- Sport Specific Conditioning • Judo • Cheerleading
- Dance • Academic Excellence

World class full-time coaches and program directors work together to not only develop the child's athletic ability, but more importantly, to teach the intangibles such as discipline, commitment, respect, honor, teamwork and sportsmanship. In addition to recreational programs, the CYC offers competitive team training opportunities for those hoping to excel at a higher level. The recreational and competitive programs are offered year-round with extra weekly camps throughout the summer.

For only \$20 a month, kids learn, work and play together in a safe, top-rate athletic facility that truly provides a sense of "community" and belonging. The CYC also offers scholarships for those unable to afford the monthly membership fees. The goal of the CYC is to teach youth basic core values that will help lay the foundation for developing inner strength and self confidence to become good people and future productive members of the community.

For more information, call (925) 671-7070 and/or visit our website <http://www.communityyouthcenter.org>



Weekly Summer Camps

June 26 – August 25, 2006

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with drop off at 8:30 a.m.
For working families: Early drop off available from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Activity Camps
Boxing
Wrestling
Tae Kwon Do
Judo



Gymnastics
Rhythmic Gymnastics
Dance
Cheerleading
Academics

The Community Youth Center offers a variety of day camps featuring world class coaches and fun activities in a safe and positive environment. Most weekly camps range from \$55 to \$70 with discounts for multiple camps and campers.

2241 Galaxy Court • Concord • (925) 671-7070
www.communityyouthcenter.org

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGES 5 – 13 YEARS



SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

WHERE & WHEN:

Church Of The Valley - San Ramon July 10-14
Stone Valley Middle School - Alamo July 24-28
Robert Livermore Park - Livermore July 31-August 4

TIMES

Half Day Campers 8:30 am-12:30pm Full Day Campers 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

EVENTS

Flag Football, Baseball, Basketball, Kickball, Soccer, Hockey, IT IS ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN!

FOOD & GIFTS

All children receive lunch and full day campers an additional afternoon snack & drink, shirts, water bottles, achievement certificates, medals & more!

Sign up now! www.christkidsports.org

Questions? info@christkidsports.org

Call NOW! (925) 719-1950

Monte Vista High School

Success in business and life many times depends on the ability to express oneself with confidence and clarity. It is the purpose at Monte Vista Institute to offer students the opportunity to learn communication skills in a fun and individualized atmosphere.

For the past 16 years the Monte Vista Institute has provided hundreds of students in the art of communication and public speaking. Again this year we will be offering a junior institute for students entering grades 4-6. In each session these students develop public speaking skills and focus on one of the following events (dramatic, humorous, persuasive, or informative speaking).

There is no question that students who attend the Monte Vista Institute are better prepared for success. We are very excited about this year's camps and look forward to seeing you!

David J. Matley
Director

Saklan Valley School

Small class size makes a big difference in the quality of a child's education. Research has demonstrated that classes of 20 or below have a dramatic positive impact on academic achievement, social development and emotional well-being compared to classrooms of 20 or above. Saklan Valley School features a top-notch academic preparation in classes that range from age 12 and are capped at 16. Our program also provides excellent enriching education in foreign language, arts & music, science & computers, and physical education.

Saklan educates children from all over the East Bay, including in preschool (age 3) and running through to 8th grade. We are located on a lovely small campus under redwood trees in beautiful Moraga Valley, and we offer shuttle transportation from Alamo, Lafayette and Orinda.

For a personal tour of the campus, call us at 925-376-7900 or visit our Web site at www.saklan.org. Consider investing in educational excellence for your child by choosing Saklan superior education.



A SUPERIOR EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD

PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY - MIDDLE SCHOOL



saklan valley school



small classes & personal attention
safe, country day setting
academically challenging
fully accredited
CIS-600

Consider the difference a small class size can make for your child's academic and emotional development. Our class size average is just 11.

Since 1954, Saklan has been serving families from all over the East Bay. We are located campus in beautiful Moraga Valley, just 15 minutes from Moraga, West and Walnut Creek to the East. Van shuttle service provided.

1678 School Street | Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-7900 | www.saklan.org

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Summer Speech Camp

Monte Vista HS, Danville

July 17 - July 28

or

July 31 - August 11

Applications are being accepted for students entering grades 7-12



Junior Institute
Grades 4-6

Visit us on the Web at
www.montevistainstitute.org

For more information contact David Matley email: dm@montevistainstitute.org

Students may choose 2 classes per camp. Classes range from public speaking to competitive speech, drama, and debate. Camps run from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Mon-Fri. Cost: \$250.00.

LEARN TO RIDE

Summer Camp
Starts June 12th (12 weeks of Camp)

\$495 per week

Registration forms available on our web site or call to enroll 925-937-7661



Erica Mark riding Sonja

Camp Dates

June 12-16;
19-23;
26-30;
July 3-7;
10-14;
17-21;
24-28;
July 31-August 4;
August 7-11;
14-18;
21-25;
August 28-Sept. 1

- RIDING LESSONS
\$65 per hour per private
5 lessons for the price of 4 - one free lesson
- HORSEMANSHIP COURSE
Sat. 9:30 am or Sun. 1:00 pm
Five 1 1/2 hour sessions \$275
- GIRL SCOUT BADGE PROGRAM
Approved by Girl Scouts of the East Bay Area
Two 1 1/2 hour sessions, \$35 per scout per session
- BIRTHDAY PARTIES
Check our web site for details

www.castlerockarabians.com



5 WEEK SUMMER SESSION

June 26 - July 28,
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

For boys and girls entering grades 1-8

Child Supervision Option
available before and after school

Program will be held at
Walnut Creek Intermediate School

Registration info and course descriptions
www.arts-ed.org

or call
943-5846



Art • Science • Games • Cartooning • Clay • Theatre • and more!

Arts, Adventures & Academics
Summer School 2006

SCHOOLS, CAMPS & CHILD CARE

The Dorris-Eaton School

The Dorris-Eaton School's Summer 2006 is an exciting, educational, diverse program for all well-behaved students entering kindergarten through grade six. You do not have to be a Dorris-Eaton student to attend this exciting summer camp. Complete details and enrollment forms available at www.dorris-eaton.com or call 925.933.5225.

June 19 - July 28

Academic Enrichment - 9 A.M. to Noon

K - 1st

Phonics ■ Reading ■ Comprehension
Oral and Written Language ■ Mathematics
Auditory, Visual, Listening, and Motor Skills

2 - 4th

Reading ■ Comprehension
Creative Writing ■ Spelling
Conceptual and Computational Math

5 - 6th

Literature ■ Vocabulary Development
Grammar ■ Creative Writing ■ Math

Afternoon Minicamp - Noon to 4 P.M.

Sports ■ Cooking ■ Science Experiments
Drama ■ Music ■ Swimming
Computers ■ Arts and Crafts

Specialty Workshops - 12:45 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Beginning Mandarin ■ Studio Art

Extended Care:

7 A.M. to 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Walnut Creek Sports Association

The primary goal of The WCSA summer camps is to develop self-confidence, leadership, teamwork and friendship through a high adventure, fun-filled program. Our counselors and staff recognize that kids today have many different abilities, emotional and developmental challenges, and we work to bring out the best in each child while gently encouraging them to improve themselves as individuals. Our camps give the time to know and understand the challenges and abilities of each child, and we develop individual programs to meet those needs within the framework of the great program.

Camps are not just a fun place to spend a summer. The focus of our programs is on the betterment of your child as an individual. We welcome children from any background and most abilities, emotional and developmental abilities to enjoy a summer experience of growth and fun.

Camps run weekly from June 19th - August 25th. Camps have a 2-week minimum registration.

One of the special events and field trips we offer include an overnight stay on the USS Hornet aircraft carrier, Water World, spelunking cave trip for older kids, and many other adventures.

Employment and leadership training opportunities:
In-Training ages 12-16 (75% program fee discount)
Counselor ages 16-18 (paid position)
Counselor ages 18 and up (paid position)
For more information on these and other fun opportunities visit our Web site at walnutcreeksportsleague.com or call 925-952-4450.

The Walnut Creek Sports Association presents....

Exciting Summer Camp Adventure & Fun for Kids Ages 3 - 16

Game Boy Camp Ages 6-16

June 19 - August 25th

Our camps are based at Castle Rock Recreation Area in Walnut Creek and our program includes:

Camp Sunshine (ages 3-5) gets the young folks in on the fun
The Rock Explorers (ages 6-16) traditional day camp format
Skate Camp (ages 6-16) for skateboard, inline and scooter
4 Fun Camp (ages 6-16) traditional multi sport camp format
Game Boy Camp (ages 6-16)

Camp Sunshine hours are 9am - 12pm.
Extended hours to 1pm and is parent drop/pick up only
Other camps are 9am - 3:30pm/extended hours 6am-6pm

Transportation options include pick up and drop off at Walnut Creek BART.
Camp Sunshine does not offer transportation due to age/safety concerns.
For more information on these and other fun opportunities please visit our website at walnutcreeksportsleague.com or call us at 925-952-4450.

John's coaching philosophy...

The John Doyle Soccer Camp philosophy is one that instills fun through the game of soccer while focusing on the four pillars of soccer success.

The focus of our camps provides players training in the:

• technical • tactical • physical • mental parts of the game

John's coaching staff instills a sense of passion in young players. John's youth and professional experience has helped him to create a program that will help your player to excel in the game while creating an experience that will have your soccer player coming back for more.

iD Tech Camps

Experience hands-on technology fun! Week-long day and overnight summer technology programs for ages 7-17 at 40 prestigious universities nationwide including UC Berkeley, St. Mary's College of CA, and Stanford University. Learn the latest technology with instructors who make learning fun. Film and edit digital movies, produce blockbuster special effects, create 2D and 3D video games, model 3D characters, design Web sites, learn programming and robotics, and more. With one computer per student and an average of six students per instructor, campers are given the attention they need to excel and take home a project at the end of the week-long course. Microsoft, Apple, Adobe, Canon, Conitec, Stagecast, Logitech, Wacom, Vidia and others have partnered with iD Tech Camps to raise the bar in technology education. Additionally, students can learn filmmaking in Spain with the 2-week teen study abroad program. Visit www.internalDrive.com or call 1-888-709-TECH (8324) for details and specials. Mention code CA28 and save.

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St. Mary's College of CA
Stanford University
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• Produce Digital Movies
• Design Websites
• Program Robots
• Sports & Tech at Stanford
• Surf & Tech in Santa Cruz

• Ages 7-17
• Day & Overnight Camps
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Save \$5
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Summer 2006

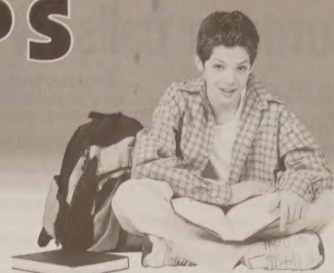
Academic Enrichment - Minicamp - Extended Care
New Mandarin and Studio Art Workshops

For Students Entering Kindergarten - Grade Six
June 19 - July 28

Complete details at dorris-eaton.com
or call 925.933.5225.

The
Dorris-Eaton
School

The difference is education™



LearningRx

Exercise For Your Child's Brain

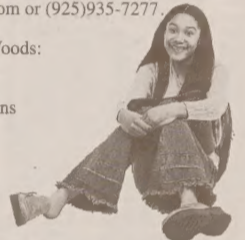
While most children are physically active during the summer months, mental activities may be a lower priority. Our programs train the brain in the same way that physical exercise trains the body. If tutoring has not helped your child, don't waste any more time or money on this approach, which does not address the underlying problem. We guarantee we can strengthen and develop your child's cognitive skill set by enhancing auditory and visual processing, improving short- and long-term memory, sharpening comprehension through logic and reasoning, and increasing his or her capacity to pay attention and focus. Most children realize academic gains of two to three grade levels. Make the most of this summer-help your child get mentally fit by enrolling today.

GRAYSON WOODS GOLF COURSE

Grayson Woods Golf Course is a 9-hole par-27 golf course located in Pleasant Hill, just minutes from Walnut Creek. Our Junior Golf Camps are organized and operated by PGA and LPGA professionals. This is a wonderful way to introduce children to the great sport of golf. Grayson Woods Golf Camps include professional training, utilizing the latest in high tech swing computers, daily on-course playing, golf rules, etiquette seminars and videos and putting tournaments on our beautiful 18-hole putting course. Summer camps run weekly beginning June 12th and space is limited. For more information and to sign up for Golf Camps please look us up online at www.golfgraysonwoods.com or (925)935-7277.

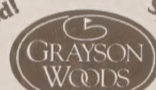
Also offered at Grayson Woods:

- * Putting Leagues
- * Corporate Outings
- * Private and Group Lessons
- * Ladies Day
- * Birthday Parties



SUMMER JUNIOR GOLF CAMP

Sign up now
Space is limited!



GOLF COURSE

BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 6-14

1-WEEK CAMPS MON-THURS STARTS JUNE 12
(17 SESSIONS)

\$240 per session

Sign up online www.golfgraysonwoods.com
Or call (925)935-7277

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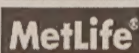
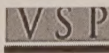
Super Fun
Small Groups
Visit Web site at Northgate.com

- SUMMER CAMPS - REGISTER NOW!!!!
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Jill Henderson North Gait Equestrian Center
1101 North Gate Rd. Walnut Creek (925) 932-2282

JOHN DOYLE
SOCCER



RELIANCE STANDARD

John Doyle Soccer Camps
presents the summer camp
program

We have camps for 3-5 years, 5-12 years and 13-18 years beginning the week of June 26th and running the entire summer.

Camp info can be found at www.johndoylesscercamps.com.

You can call 888-491-0900 with any questions regarding

John Doyle Soccer Camps.

Any other questions can be e-mailed to johndoylessoccer@aol.com.

Soccer programs include Kix R 4 Kids, Full Day Camp, Half Day Camp, college prep camps and fitness camps.



FREE

Comprehensive
Learning Skills & Reading
Assessment

*\$450 value, rebated upon program enrollment

This Summer, Address Your Child's Learning Difficulties

We specialize in helping children overcome all types of learning challenges, including reading and math difficulties. We address dyslexia, auditory/visual processing, memory and recall, processing speed and ADD/ADHD symptoms. Unlike tutoring services, our programs strengthen cognitive skills, which are essential for successful learning and living.

- Increases ability to read, think, study and learn
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- Customized, one-on-one training program
- 12 to 24-week programs

Results are lasting and guaranteed!

LearningRx

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925.416.1400 www.learningrx.com

Sewing
A popular class for ages 7 thru teens. Children produce attractive, usable items by hand and machine.
Call Joy Parsons for Summer Enrollment at 925.944.5596
Valley Children's Gym Walnut Creek



Summer calls for a clear view of the outdoors

Practical tips for proper window and door cleaning and maintenance

ARA

One of the biggest home maintenance tasks of the summer just got easier, with a few points of practical advice on the proper cleaning of windows and doors.

Warm weather and long days are the perfect time to clean off grime and achieve a sparkling view to the outdoors. JELD-WEN, a leading manufacturer of reliable windows and doors, offers this practical advice.

"The most important thing to remember when cleaning windows and patio doors is to use gentle, soft materials that won't harm surfaces," said Brian Hedlund, product marketing manager for JELD-WEN windows. "A dry, overcast day

works best because intense sunlight can cause streaks as the cleaning solution dries too quickly."

Window and door surfaces

1. Use a combination of gentle ingredients to clean glass, window frames and door surfaces. Mix one teaspoon of baby shampoo to one gallon of water or 1-1/2 cups of vinegar to one gallon of water.

2. Wash with the solution using a clean, soft cloth or sponge.

3. Rinse with clean water. Don't use pressurized sprayers that can break seals.

4. Promptly dry glass surfaces thoroughly with a cloth.

5. Dry window frames and door surfaces with a separate cloth.

Be wary of shortcuts that hurt instead of help. Avoid power washers, metal tools, razor blades or other objects that can break seals, scratch glass and remove exterior glass coatings. Always be gentle. Don't allow aggressive cleaners to

come in contact with vinyl, wood or metal-clad surfaces. Cleanliness counts. Be sure to clean up puddles that collect at glass edges, as this can damage window glazing.

Cleaning exterior finishes

1. Mild soap and water and a soft sponge or cloth is the simplest and safest way to clean exterior finishes like wood, metal-clad surfaces, vinyl, plastic and brass.

2. Always rinse and wipe dry immediately after cleaning.

3. Metal-clad and brass surfaces benefit from a protective coating of high-quality car wax after cleaning.

As a general rule, avoid vinegar and citrus-based solutions, paint removers, harsh or abrasive cleaners on exterior surfaces.

Cleaning insect screens

1. Remove screen. Most have spring-loaded pins or tabs. Patio door screens can be lifted up off their tracks.

2. Place screen into a tub or shower stall if indoors, or on a hard surface outdoors.

3. Gently spray the screen with water.

4. Brush lightly with a soft bristle tool until clean. For stubborn dirt, a mild soap and water solution can be used.

5. Rinse clean.

6. Replace the screen when dry.

For more information visit www.jeld-wen.com/resources or call 800-877-9482, ext. PRWD.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

E-mail correspondence etiquette

MS

E-mail correspondence is a fast, easy and effective way to discuss work-related issues. But e-mailing colleagues or clients isn't the same as sending notes to your friends. Here are some basic tips to follow when e-mailing on the job.

Watch your punctuation, spelling and grammar. Run spell check and read over before hitting "Send."

Avoid ALL CAPS and abbreviations. Caps can be perceived as unprofessional and likened to shouting.

Keep it short and sweet. Get to your point as quickly as you

can, including all necessary details. That way, the recipient easily answers your question and won't have to e-mail for more information.

Watch your tone. Stay clean and simple language comes across as respectful, friendly, not abrupt.

Look before you send. Ways double-check the "To" and "CC" fields on your e-mail. You don't want a person to receive an e-mail that wasn't meant for him. Also make sure to delete private or confidential information from a message you're forwarding to another party.

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"TGIF" Dance Cruise

5/19/06

Live Band

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Cruise 8-11

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ANIMALS

on BROADWAY

A Day Dedicated to Pets Saturday, May 20, 2006 11am-4pm

Bring Your Pet and Join the Fun!

11 am	Registration for ALL Contests and Events
11:30am	Paws on Parade Dog Walk
Noon	Music by Steve Seskin, Scavenger Hunt, Pet Poker Run, Dogs Can Dance — Demo
12:45-1:15pm	Cutest Beg Contest
1pm	Music by la Ventana Band
1:15 pm - 2pm	Distraction Factor
1:45-2pm	Dunkin' for Veggie Dogs
2pm	Music by Steve Seskin Pet "Simon Says"
2:15-2:30pm	Fastest "Woofers" Contest
2:30-3pm	Silly Pet Tricks (Win \$100 Broadway Plaza Gift Card)
3pm	Music by la Ventana Band

BROADWAY PLAZA

CENTRAL

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

For more information, call 925.933.6589 or log onto broadwayplaza.com or arf.net.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

Dinner tonight: An easier spin on pot pie

BY ROBIN MATHER JENKINS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rotisserie chicken is my family's default dinner, largely because it automatically provides good stuff for leftovers the next couple of days.

When I have time, I make chicken pot pie. When I don't, I make chicken stew and serve it over freshly baked biscuits.

The secret is to make the stew quite thick, much thicker than gravy, and to pack a lot of vegetables into it.

Tips:

A bag of individually frozen biscuits in the freezer lets you grab the right number for dinner with no waste.

You can slide lots of different vegetables into this: zucchini, cauliflower, broccoli, bell pepper, mushrooms, sweet potatoes (cut into 1/2-inch dice so they will cook quickly), butternut squash.

Beverage pairing:

With such an all-American dinner — "mom-food" at its best — we like a tall glass of icy 2-percent milk.

Menu:

Chicken stew with biscuits
Tossed salad
Fruit and yogurt parfaits

CHICKEN STEW WITH BISCUITS

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 each, diced: carrots, celery
1 medium onion, diced
1/2 cup flour
2 cans (14 1/2 ounces each) reduced-sodium chicken broth
3 cups diced cooked chicken
1 cup frozen peas
1/2 teaspoon each: crumbled fresh thyme, coarse salt
Freshly ground pepper
8 biscuits, baked

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Heat the oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat; add the carrots, celery and onion. Cook, stirring, until the onion is golden, about 5 minutes.

Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables; cook, stirring, 3 minutes. Add about 1 cup of the broth, stirring to prevent lumps. Cook until the sauce begins to thicken; add the remaining broth all at once. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sauce is completely thickened, about 5 minutes.

Stir in the chicken, peas, thyme, salt and pepper to taste; reduce heat to simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until reduced and thickened, about 8 minutes.

Meanwhile, bake the biscuits according to package directions. To serve, split two biscuits per person; spoon stew over biscuits.

Preparation time: 10 minutes, cooking time: 23 minutes, makes 4 servings.



MAKE THIS CHICKEN STEW with biscuits with leftover rotisserie chicken and loads of diced veg-

Prime



Times

Courtyards at Pine Creek

NOW featuring Hospice Care!



Courtyards at Pine Creek is conveniently located just minutes off Hwy. 680 in Concord. Our amenities include three nutritious restaurant-style meals plus snacks, medication management, housekeeping, laundry services, scheduled transportation and stimulating activities. Our philosophy of care encourages and supports independence while offering assisted living services personalized to meet the individual needs of our residents. Each private and semi-private studio opens to an enclosed courtyard or patio. We also offer 12 studios especially designed for independent ambulatory residents. A separate neighborhood for the memory impaired provides residents with a structured, family-style environment. We offer the highest quality services at an affordable price.



Call Jeri for your personal tour.

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1081 Mohr Ln., Concord

(Just minutes from Hwy 680)

(925) 798-0773 (fax)

Lic #075601143

COURTYARDS AT PINE CREEK

Where in the bay area can a senior find an apartment that includes cable, housekeeping and meals for *\$2,000 per month*

If you are an independent senior who is tired of keeping house, preparing meals and paying those darn cable bills, come to

We'll see to it that you're feeling comfy in your sunny new apartment, with help always close at hand as our Assisted Living & Memory Impaired communities are on the same grounds. If you need more care you can get more care!

Courtyards at Pine Creek
1081 Mohr Lane, Concord
(925) 798-3900

Call Jeri Brant for your personal tour today.



BYRON PARK

"I Wish I had Moved to Byron Park Sooner"

A comment often heard from residents at Byron Park. "I have all the PRIVACY I want in my apartment, and the CHOICES of things to do when I want to."

"I was so tired of cooking and eating alone. I love the MEALS, and especially, the companionship with others!"

"Without the worry and expense of taking care of a big house, I have more time and energy to do other things!"

"I feel so SAFE here!"
These are a few of the many great comments expressed from

residents when asked about their home at Byron Park.

An example of a retirement community that values their residents' growth is Byron Park in Walnut Creek. Not only are the traditional services graciously provided, but there are diverse opportunities for recreational, cultural, educational, and spiritual growth.

Residents' ages range from 62 to 95 years of age with a vast diversity of interests, backgrounds and talents. A variety of programs, ranging from water aerobics, exer-

cise rooms and classes, to on health, financial and interests, to seminars on current events, and special focuses of interest.

Byron Park is located in Rossmore and downtown Walnut Creek. We invite you to see and see for yourself the active lifestyle Byron Park offer. For more information, contact Byron Park, or request a brochure or tour, please call 937-1700 or 1-800-937-7777.

DOCTOR'S CENTER FOR HEARING

How digital hearing technology can improve life's important sounds and conversations

Digital technology's superiority over traditional analog hearing aids isn't just what it can do with sounds, but how much better does it

for your amplification for the best possible match to your listening and lifestyle needs.

By converting the incoming signals into computerized "bits," they can be processed, or manipulated extremely fast and efficiently in many complex ways using mathematical formulas known as algorithms. This gives digital signal processors (DSP) tremendous speed and ability to recognize a sound's key ingredients.

The precision and flexibility of digital technology also gives us the ability to more accurately tai-

lors your amplification for the best possible match to your listening and lifestyle needs.

Your hearing instruments reconnected you with the world of sound. Now ELI connects you and your digital BTEs to the 21st century! So if you've been waiting for technology to bring you digital sound without wires, wait no more. ELI is here.

The new ELI™ (Ear Level Instrument) employs Bluetooth™, the world's most popular connection technology, to wirelessly connect your BTE hearing instruments to mobile phones and a

wide variety of Bluetooth™ compatible electronics, including cell phones, high-definition television sound systems.

Ask us about these technologies

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